

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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

### The Depressed Condition of Agriculture—Its Remedies and Its Future.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.]

A railway commission placed upon as secure a basis would not be any more likely to go amiss than they.

To those opposing, on the ground of economy, I would refer you to this illustration, and show how far in the rear we are in managing our public affairs: China is the only country in the world whose postal service is managed by private enterprise. The United States is the only country of importance whose telegraphic communication is so conducted; and, while it leads in mileage, and number of messages sent, at the same time, in the average expense of sending messages, we are not in advance of the leading countries of Europe—and are even behind some of the inferior ones.

In the Postal department the needs of the people are attended to, regardless of whether it will pay or not, by establishing country offices where, if the matter was left to private corporations, there would be few such offices. And were the telegraph system under the direction of government officials, the same order of things would prevail as in our present postal system. Both could be placed upon a paying basis, by having them in connection, and placing the offices upon a civil service system.

With the transportation system under government control, one of the greatest obstacles to a free exchange of agricultural products would be removed; but we still have an expensive way—to the producer—of reaching the consumer.

Edward Atkinson, in an article written several years ago, says that it costs more to deliver the loaf of bread to the consumer, after it is kneaded, than all the expense of raising, milling and transporting the flour from the west to the city of Boston.

While I do not advocate the abolishing of the commission merchant, I do believe his pay should be in accordance to services rendered and not gauged by the same law we pluck our geese, taking all the feathers we can, without destroying the future usefulness of the feathered biped.

The conditions that surround our live stock trade may be taken as a fair sample of the abuses that have grown out of our commission system.

These figures, illustrating the magnitude of the trade, and at the same time a portion of the expense paid by the farmer in marketing his product, are but one of the many ways the wealth of the country is being directed from where it properly belongs. In the year 1890 there was marketed in the stock-yards of Chicago 3,484,596 cattle, 175,065 calves, 7,663,828 hogs, 2,182,667 sheep. The farmers paid the Stock-yards company the sum of \$1,615,271.09 for the privilege of

merely putting this stock in their yards, and then paid feed and commission bills extra.

When I say to you that the plant can be duplicated for five and one-half millions of dollars, do you think the farmers are getting their fair share of the profits of exchange? And do you wonder that the organizations that promise them relief from these burdens have such an extensive following?

I might trace every article that leaves the farm and show the same pernicious system attending its steps, from producer to consumer, who are alike interested in this matter.

The remedy I should apply to these would be combination, then correct information. I put combination first, because I do not believe the majority can acquire correct information without first organizing, and then through this avenue compelling those who do know to let their light shine.

Aside from the topics of trade and transportation, we have a third factor in reducing the net revenue of the farmer, that of taxation. This may be a hackneyed topic, but it is one we always have with us. It seems a necessity to our civilization—and as the country grows older, they increase in consequence of bad management on the part of public officials, and as the country becomes more populous the necessity for internal improvements becomes greater.

Our educational and reformatory institutions must be enlarged.

A greater number of public officials must be salaried, to transact the public business, and almost unconsciously the burden increases until, as Governor Luce in his message to the Legislature of 1889, said, that it absorbs 34 per cent. of the net earnings of the people.

There are two ways of solving the problem. The first is by reducing the expenditures, second by enlarging the sources from which they are drawn. The first remedy would be at once difficult and liable to vexatious delays.

In view of the fact that the bonded debt of the counties of Michigan has increased in volume 51 per cent. in the last decade, and the average increase of the western states is 19 per cent. in volume.

I can recommend no better way to lessen this debt than the following recommendation by Gov. Winans to the present Legislature.

"Let us bear in mind, in all our official acts, that we are exercising delegated authority and are sent here to enact the popular will. Public sentiment indicates that our people will no longer patiently submit to the steady increase of expenditures which has continued through the past 25 years. They demand economical administration of public affairs. They demand the abolition of every unnecessary office. They demand that all who enjoy the protection of our laws shall contribute to the cost in just proportion to their means."

The second method, that enlarging the source from which the revenues are drawn, will surely occupy the attention of the law-makers the present session, and if we care for our future in this matter we must endeavor to gain correct information of our present system and be prepared to act intelligently, through our representatives at Lansing.

The next summer will bring a new equalization of all real and personal property, as between counties, and no better time could be chosen for demanding that property, of whatever nature, should bear its proper proportion of taxes levied.

The two methods of raising taxes in our state, direct and specific, should be carefully studied by us, so that any inequalities existing can be remedied. And, in this connection, I desire to call your attention to one phase of specific taxation, as it now exists. In the year 1889 the total municipal, town, county, school, and state tax, levied by the authorities, was \$20,000,000. The equalized value of all real and personal property in the state, aside from that which is exempt, or was specifically taxed, was \$945,000,000. In the year 1889 the capital stock of all railroads in Michigan was \$612,181,072. Of the \$20,000,000 of taxes paid into the public treasury, the railroads paid \$712,128.54, or 1 16-100ths on a dollar, while the real and personal paid an average of .02 on a dollar. Does this look like an equal distribution of the burden of taxation?

When our fathers granted the franchises and charters to the railroads, they could not conceive of their immense value, nor the influence these corporations would obtain in our legislative bodies, or they would not have granted such privileges.

The local taxation of railroads is no new departure, as thirty-two of the older states already apportion the taxes paid by the railroads in this manner, and I think that nearly, if not all, of the new ones levy theirs in the same way.

The M. C. R. R. pays local taxes in Illinois and specific in Michigan. They own forty-five miles in Illinois, and their tax per mile of road was \$575.00. The same year they owned and leased in this state 1,049 miles and paid a tax of \$267.00 per mile—less than one-half as much as in Illinois. Is this right? Is it just to us? To show that this change would affect the pockets of the citizens of our state I will say that but 3.62 per cent. of the capital stock is owned in our state. The holders toil not, neither do they spin, yet they are entitled to the same protection from our courts, so far as their property is concerned, as are the citizens of Michigan who give 34 per cent. of their net earnings to protect them.

The subject of local taxation has been agitated but little yet, but it is one of the steps towards the demands made by the industrial classes, and, as the government puts it, "That all who enjoy the protection of our laws should contribute to their cost in just proportion to their means and the benefits derived from it." If I were to detail to you all the inequalities that exist in our methods of taxation, the length of this paper would exceed reasonable limits and stretch too far into the future for which we are all planning, no matter what our calling.

To me the future of agriculture seems assured of a brighter prospect. It is attracting to it men of wealth, education and business methods, and, in a majority of cases, they are coming in contact with the people of the rural districts, and such changes will work for the good of both.

I have shown you that the av-

erage size of the farms in the United States are growing smaller, but I wish to call your attention to this fact: The farms in purely agricultural districts are, as a rule, growing larger, while in the vicinity of manufacturing cities and commercial centers they are growing smaller. There is a great change working in this country in all industrial matters, and these problems demand from us careful study.

The capital of the country is being concentrated in large enterprises. In manufactories of all kinds the amount of capital employed shows a greater increase than the rate of increase of employes, and is showing a correspondingly lower rate per cent. of profit.

The area of arable lands is fast diminishing. Different portions of the states are rapidly turning their attention towards the special branches of farming suited to their soil and locality. And in agriculture, as in other branches of industry, the methods of production are cheapening, because of a superior quality of implements used, and better and higher grades of live stock produced.

In proportion to our ability to use these two elements in our prosperity will success attend our efforts.

We cannot entirely throw the blame of our not succeeding upon any one else, until we have removed the obstacles that lie in the path of our individual success; and in rendering our verdict upon these national questions, let us "be honest" with ourselves, "be just" to those who differ with us, "and fear not" but that right will prevail. E. A. WILDEY.

### Government Control of Industries.

The question of governmental control of railroads, express business and telegraph lines, is now attracting much attention among farmers and the debtor classes generally. There is evidently something wrong. Agriculture is in a depressed condition. Those whose farms are mortgaged find hard work to keep up even the interest, and foreclosure is often the result. Whatever the cause or causes might be which brought about this state of things, there is a general and deep-rooted belief, not only that these evils are removable, but that relief must come through governmental interference. Hence, we have a variety of schemes proposed, claiming public notice, by a class of speculative reformers who, no doubt, earnestly desire and expect to ameliorate the condition of the poor.

While the plans offered differ somewhat in detail, there is a remarkable agreement in their general principles, from Plato's Republic to the latest edition of Communism, by Bellamy.

These important changes—placing railroads, &c., under government control—are very plausibly urged by scathing invectives against monopolies, railroad kings and the danger to the people from the accumulation of large fortunes, &c. Thousands of good people who would hold up both hands for the control of certain industries by the government, as a step in the right direction and a perfectly safe precedent, would be shocked at the idea of Communism. But when the government undertakes to own and carry on the business of the people efficiently, we are fairly on the road that leads to Socialism and establishing that strong government which so many

are clamoring for with so much rhetoric.

This question should be thoroughly discussed by honest inquirers to know whether such a change would be advantageous to the people or not. By making use of a common fallacy—affirming a certainty where only a probability or possibility can be drawn—the advocates of the new plan usually point us to the mail service. They say: "If the United States can so successfully conduct this business and reduce letter postage from twenty cents to two cents, it can, in like manner, carry on other industries with equal success and satisfaction." This looks like a very plausible proposition. But is it true? Is cheap postage due to anything government has done? All the post-office department does in the postal service is to collect, assort, stamp and bag outgoing and deliver incoming letters; give out and receive money orders, and render an account of the business done. No improved methods have been introduced during the last twenty-five years in that part of the postal system which the government controls. Letters are stamped by hand and delivered and collected by individual messengers, just as they were fifty years ago.

All the economy in the postal service has come from the improved methods of transporting the mails; and this, it should be remembered, is all done by private enterprise. Who would not trust the express companies in preference to the mails, when money or valuable packages are to be sent? It might still be urged that if these industries were under government control the cost to the public would be materially lessened. It is stated, however, on good authority, that the rates for dispatches in England, where telegraph lines have been owned by the state since 1870, are but a trifle less than in this country; and there a deficiency of nearly a million of dollars a year must be made up by a tax on the public.

"Thus in addition to what is directly paid for the service by the consumer, about 7 1/2 cents per message is paid directly in taxes, making a total of over 30 cents per message of ten words, while the cost in this country is only 20 cents for ten words in large cities and 25 cents for ten words for distances of four or five hundred miles, the average for all the messages, both long and short, being only 30.4 cents per message."

[The above quotation is from "Political Science Quarterly for 1888," and the rates may differ now.] But it is said the colossal fortunes of monopolists come from the laboring classes; and many other evils might be avoided by placing these industries under the control of the administration.

This is an important question and should have careful consideration. Concentration of capital may be of great advantage in an economic and social sense, if wisely administered. It should be borne in mind that a large part of the fortunes of the railroad kings have not come from exorbitant passenger and freight rates, in which the general public is directly interested, but from the enormous land grants and other aids from the government. No doubt these great aggregations of capital have, in many instances, been used op-

(Continued on 5th page.)

**"Like His Mother Used to Make."**

"I was born in Indiana," says a stranger, lank and slim, as we fellows in the restaurant was kind o' guyin' him, and Uncle Jake was slidin' him another punkin pie and an extra cup o' coffee, with a twinkle in his eye—

"I was born in Indiana—more'n forty year ago, and I hain't been back in twenty—and I'm workin' back'ards slow; but I've et in every restaurant 'twixt here and Santa Fee, and I want to state this coffee tastes like gettin' home to me!

"Pour us out another daddy," says the feller, warm'n' up.

A speakin' 'cross a saucerful, as uncle tuck his cup—

"When I seed your sign out yonder," he went on to Uncle Jake—

"Come in and git some coffee like your mother used to make—

I thought of my old mother and the Posey county farm.

And me a little kid ag'in, a hangin' on her arm and she set the pot a bilin'—broke the eggs and poured 'em in—"

And the feller kinder halted, with a tremble in his chin.

And Uncle Jake he fetched the feller's coffee back, and stood

As solemn, fer a minute, as an undertaker would; then he sort o' turned and tipped to'rds the kitchen door, and next—

Here comes his old wife out with him, a rubbin' of her specs—

And she rushes for the stranger, and she hollers out, "It's him!"

Thank God, we've met him comin'! Don't you know your mother, Jim?"

And the feller as he grabbed her says: "You bet I ain't forgot!"

But, wipin' off his eyes, says he, "Your coffee's mighty hot."

—James Whitcomb Riley.

**The Coming Sheep.**

[A paper read by C. A. Hatch at the Wisconsin Agricultural Convention.]

It must be a general purpose sheep. \* \* \* The coming sheep must have the vitality, constitution and general characteristics covered by the comprehensive term "Rustle," to stand up and maintain his good qualities even in the most adverse conditions. Where can this animal be but among the Merinos? Their range of adaptability to climate is greatest, their hardihood adapts them to scant pasture and their long line of heredity enables them to withstand the evils of promiscuous and indiscriminate breeding. \* \* \* The physicians might as well prescribe one remedy for all diseases, regardless of what is indicated, as for one breed of sheep to be recommended for all places and all circumstances. Given—nearness to market, small flock, warm quarters, skillful shepherd, indicate some mutton breed best adapted to lamb raising. Given—same conditions as to skill but greater distance to market, liberal notions as to feeding coupled with small flock, indicate some of the largest mutton breeds to be sold at eighteen months or two years old. Given—poor pasture, large flock, long distances to market, then every circumstance indicates Merinos. The important question is not how can I get the most average income per head with this or that breed, but how can I turn the products of a given amount of land into the most money; and to answer this properly: nearness to market, ability as a shepherd and feeder and number to be kept in one flock, must all be taken into consideration. \* \* \* Ten years ago we were told there would be no over-production of beef. Five years ago we were told the same about cheese. How is it to-day? Let your beef producer and dairymen answer. While the fleece of the mutton sheep is valuable, it alone would never pay for the keep of the sheep. Then, as good business managers, it becomes us to look well to this part, and while keeping an eye well on the mutton crop, look well to fleece. The kind of wool found on the 'downs breed is not of a kind that can enter into any but the coarser kind of fabrics, and we find that two-thirds, if not three-fourths, of our cloth is made of Merino wool. Does this not point plainly to the place to get our coming sheep? \* \* \* Other breeds have larger cuts of mutton; other breeds have grown longer wool; other breeds have brought their owners more money for a given number, but where will you find a breed that has stood high in popular favor so long? Where will you find a breed that is more domestic in its habits?—one that will respond to good treatment quicker or come nearer filling the bill for a universal sheep? While he is a good herder he is quiet and easily confined in proper limits; while he quickly responds to generous feed, none others know better how to appreciate scant pasturage; takes what

is set before him. A few years ago the mutton sheep fever swept over Ohio, but what are the farmers there stocking up with now? Is it Shrops and Oxfords? No; it is a large, smooth-bodied Merino, that bears long, fine wool. Do they make it pay? Read your market reports and let them answer. \* \* \* The coming sheep, what is it to be you say? Haven't you anticipated my answer? Let me tell you, then. A large-bodied, smooth Merino, which will weigh, when two years old, 125 to 150 pounds and carry a fleece of long stapled, lustrous wool, some two and a half to three inches in length and weigh 10 to 15 pounds. Can such be found? Plenty of individuals and occasionally whole flocks. The coming sheep must have the coming shepherd to go with him. What must he be? A man with better ideas as to breeding; he must have advanced ideas as to feeding and management. The silo will be his sheet anchor, and ensilage, either corn or clover, or both, must form part of the daily rations of his flock from November 1 until May 10. He must be well up to the times on the value of corn and clover as forage plants, and be capable of carrying 20 head of the coming sheep to every acre of land he plows, exclusive of pastures.

**Clover and Plaster a Strong Team.**

Upon the subject of commercial fertilizers Galen Wilson, the well known agricultural writer, says, in the *Philadelphia Practical Farmer*:

Were I to purchase "commercial fertilizers" for farm use, it would be clover seed and gypsum, or land plaster. This is a combination little spoken of in the press. It makes a very strong team.

When a lad, my father purchased a run down 150-acre farm. There was a plaster mill five miles away, although the farm was underlaid with plaster stone, which cropped out in places; but still we had to go where it was prepared. It was my business winters to draw plaster on Saturdays and other "week days" when school did not keep. The price at the mill was \$1 a ton, calling twenty bushels a ton. During the spring this was sown thickly on all cultivated crops, even the corn and potatoes getting their share, or sometimes the meadows and pastures. But how it did make the clover grow, even up to the edge of the plaster rock where it cropped out on the hill! If a spot was missed, the diminutive size of the stalks and their lighter color would reveal it; and it was by this means that father told whether the work of plaster sowing had been well done or not. On a high corner of the field I left a plat, and in the center of it marked out my last initial, W., by driving pegs in the ground. The letter covered about two square rods. I then carefully sowed plaster inside the stakes. Several weeks later I was out there with father, crossing to another field. The clover between the stakes was "head and shoulders" above that which surrounded it. He was an austere man and said little at any time. When he noticed this he said with a sardonic smile: "A pretty caper." This farm was bought for \$35 an acre, and some years later he sold it for \$102 per acre. Clover and plaster did it.

**A Suggestion for Tableaux.**

A very successful tableau-entertainment was recently given in New York, the subjects being taken from illustrations in the current magazines. The idea is a simple one, if the subjects are well chosen it can be made very interesting. The Century Company has prepared a list of suitable pictures with suggestions for any one who wishes to get up the entertainment. They will send it free on request.

A man is not bound with the chains of habit at once, but the Lilliputian threads are slowly wound about and wound about, and because they are so slight they are disdained. The sober man becomes a drunkard not all at once. He plays with the tiger's cub at first. It is small and playful, but its fascination binds him as it grows, until, at last, the beast is his master.—Dr. Edward P. Ingersoll.

**Beet Sugar.**

The following article is the substance of a report delivered before the Kansas State Board of Agriculture by G. F. Kellogg, State Sugar Inspector:

Never before in the history of the United States has there been so general and universal an interest in the manufacture of sugar as at the present time. The success that has attended the culture of the sugar beet and the manufacture of beet sugar in Germany, France and other foreign countries, renders it altogether certain that this country can be made wholly independent of foreign countries for that article that now obliges us to pay annually about \$150,000,000 for foreign labor in the form of sugar. There are three successful beet factories in this country. The one at Alvarado, California, has passed through five successful campaigns; the one at Watsonville, that state, has been in successful operation for three years, and the third one has been located at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Most of the crop was raised on high up-land, in the red, sandy loam so peculiar to several of our southern counties. One field raised in this soil produced a crop averaging 19.25 per cent. sucrose. There have been complaints from some localities at the amount of hand labor required in beet cultivation. Without doubt machines will soon be produced to meet these requirements, but until then our farmers can well afford to perform the necessary hand labor, when the profits on an average crop of beets is from \$40 to \$60 per acre. At the same time there are other important advantages which the farmer derives. It prepares the soil in an excellent manner for the next crop, owing to deep plowing and frequent surface cultivations. In Europe, wherever the sugar beet is grown, the value of the land has increased. Beets are grown for two or three successive years on the same land, which will then produce better cereals and other farm products. By the aid of this industry, cattle raising and fattening for market is encouraged and made profitable. The increases in the average weight of beef cattle amounts frequently to from 30 to 50 per cent., and this increase is directly attributable to the extensive use of beet pulp for food.

The beet sugar industry is a great one. It has come to this country to stay, and it is decidedly to the advantage of the farmer, as well as the manufacturer, to give it the closest attention. Because the manufacture of beet sugar has proved satisfactory at one point is no sign that the crop can be successfully grown at another. It is worth while for farmers to test the value of different sections for producing sugar beets. Wherever there is a farmers' organization of any kind this question should be discussed and if it seems at all feasible seeds should be secured and as many as possible raise a few beets each, the value of which for sugar can be tested at a trifling expense. There will be no loss in any case, as the beets are valuable for feed, and but half a dozen from each locality will be needed for analysis. This is the only practical way to accomplish any valuable results. When this has been done and the results properly published, capital will seek the most favorable locations first for new factories.

[The State Board of Agriculture, through Dr. Kedzie, will distribute seed of the sugar beet in this state, free, to individuals who will agree to grow one-fourth of an acre, keep an accurate account of the expense and furnish samples for analysis.—ED.]

The Indiana senate has passed a measure providing that all "trusts, pools, contracts, combinations, arrangements and corporations which attempt to decrease outputs, control prices or limit production shall be considered as conspiracies to defraud the people; and any person being a member of such organizations shall be subject to a fine of from \$1000 to \$5000 and imprisonment of from two to five years."

**Men of Different Make.**

Wise Solomon recommended the rod and tried proverbs to incite to industry and to terrify with the fear of cold and hunger, but all in vain—the lazy man remains lazy still. "Born tired," he fishes, hunts and "loafs." The intemperate man is of different material. When sober he generally works hard. He tries properly to clothe and house his family. He is often very proud of his children and anxious to see them in a better position in life than his own. He drinks in the early years because he is weak. He has many excellent parts, but loves jovial companions. Such men it is worth while to labor with. They can be saved and made good citizens. Their children can be saved. What they most need is kind words and helpful encouragement. Get such men to deposit their savings with persons of undoubted probity. Get them interested in accumulating property, speak to them kindly in all their efforts to lead correct lives. Praise their children. Do all that is possible to put them on their feet, and in very many cases you will not be disappointed.—Dr. Groff.

**A Decline in Speculation.**

It is claimed that the volume of speculative business transacted since the opening of the new year is less than in the same period for a long time. Brokers around the centers of trade are growing lustily, and are making all kinds of efforts to boom "business." It is not urged that the volume of legitimate business is below normal, and the dissatisfaction of dealers with the situation is evidence conclusive of how the brokerage industry (?) relies on gambling for its support. If this spirit of speculative dullness shall drive a lot of these fellows into legitimate employment of some kind, it will prove a blessing of no mean proportions. It is argued in some quarters, that dealing in options and futures has reached its extremes of development, and that from this time on, from natural causes, there must be a subsidence—all of which is somewhat too good to be true.—Stockman and Farmer.

**SOUTH HAVEN, Feb. 4th.**

ED. VISITOR: Reports having in some way gained circulation through the State press that the peach crop in the vicinity of South Haven had been seriously damaged, the South Haven and Casco Fruit Growers' society has caused extended examinations to be made up and down the lake shore with the result of finding, with very rare exceptions, the prospective crop in prime condition, unless some unexpected disaster overtakes it. Nearly all varieties will require thinning out at least one-half.

The following officers for Van Buren county were elected for the ensuing year at the recent convention of the Patrons of Industry held at Lawrence: Pres., A. F. Annable, Mattawan; Sec., H. F. Belfour, Bangor; Delegates to State convention, E. Hogmire, Bangor; D. C. Hodges, South Haven; John Goss, Bangor. The State Lecturer of the Farmers' Alliance was in attendance at the convention and advocated the merging of the two organizations into one, with a view to utilizing their combined strength in shaping future legislation. Opinions were about evenly divided as to the wisdom of this affiliation, however, and no formal action was taken. H. J. E.

A writer in the *American Cultivator* thinks it is unlikely that the wheat crop of the coming year will sell for lower than the present crop has sold. Stocks are well depleted now, and the new crop will come on a market more nearly bare than has been the case for years. Should the coming two months prove favorable, we shall not have so large a surplus for export as three or four years ago. Population is increasing faster than the increase in acreage of wheat, and within eight or ten years at the most we shall not produce more wheat than the people of this country will want for bread and seed.

**Better Times Ahead.**

There are some very interesting figures presented by C. W. Davis in the *Country Gentleman* tending to show that in the near future the United States farmer will find a home market for all his produce—and consequently higher prices, and an increased valuation upon farm land; \$100 per acre for good farm land anywhere in the United States as soon as 1895, in Mr. Davis' opinion.

Better times for the farmer are indicated in more ways than one, and the man who earliest begins his preparations to take advantage of them will be the man who reaps the greatest benefit. I do not mean by this that the man who owns good land worth \$50 per acre should at once place it in the hands of a real estate agent to be sold for \$100 per acre, but rather he should plan to continue the business at the old stand, take an inventory of stock, consult his partner, examine his accounts—and when he has informed himself what line of farming is best adapted to his farm, market, etc., let him make all other plans and considerations bend to that one—and have every day's work and every dollar expended where it will do the most good. If there are new buildings to be erected—as there will be, for higher prices will make the farmer give more attention to fertility, larger crops will mean more buildings—look your plans over so carefully that in two years you will not wish that you had built differently.—Er.

At an Eastern institute J. G. Brown stated that he had formerly paid as high as \$1,500 a year for phosphates. And now after growing crimson clover four years, he thinks he has bought his last commercial fertilizer. He will now depend on stable manure and crimson clover, of which he has 200 acres growing on his farms. Mr. J. S. Willis remarked: "I commenced its use in 1880, and now have 70 or 80 acres which I shall turn under as a green manure. My soil is sandy loam. Pasturing killed out all the grass, and in the dry summer my fields were dusty, and I was in danger of losing what sand I had, from blowing away. But now they are covered with a green carpet of scarlet clover. I have raised 50 bushels of corn per acre on this same sand." Several other well known farmers, say the *Country Gentleman*, express favorable opinions of this clover.

If we could succeed in inculcating a general belief in the worthlessness of drugs and the value of a wise hygiene, we would feel that we had been of great service to humanity. The constant dosing that prevails ruins the health of countless millions. When a man gets sick he does not try to find out the cause, that he may abandon it, but seeks a drug he fondly hopes will enable him to continue violating nature's laws and yet be restored to health. It cannot be done.—Orange County Farmer.

**Where are the Best Buggies Made?**

The Pioneer Buggy Co., Columbus, Ohio, on receipt of ten cents, will send you their treatise on the horse which also answers the above questions.

The Panama canal is actually a thing of the past, and nature in her works will soon obliterate all traces of French energy and the enormous amounts of money expended on the isthmus. Heavy rains a few weeks ago have caused vast slides into the canal from the hilltops at certain points, and the excavations for long distances at other places had previously been completely filled up.

INDIAN RIVER Grange, No. 73, Conn., Jan. 23d, 1891. Mr. O. W. Ingersoll. Dear Sir:—We used last year fifty gallons of your "Indestructible Barn Paint." The painter stuck up his nose at the paint when he began. When finished, he said: "It looked far better than he supposed any paint could make it look."

Fraternal yours,  
W. H. FRISBIE & SON.  
[See adv. Patrons' Paint Works.]

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Hard Times. For the Visitor. This subject, like that of temperance, has been studied and talked upon until it is now threadbare; yes, more than that, it has been ground finer than dust. Yet, I choose to write on this subject. Why not stir up the dust; if we let it alone it might settle and be forgotten—besides, it is a subject of interest to us all. We have individual "hard times" and general hard times. The former is ever present. There is no country free from a class of people who, either from misfortune or mismanagement, are hard up in a financial way. They furnish their own supply of hard times and ask no odds of the public in this respect. But it is of general hard times that we wish to speak. Like the former, they are ever present; yet, there are two periods of easy times always in view. One is the past and the other is the future. Perhaps you have not noticed this, but when I call your attention to certain facts I think you will agree with me. Don't you who are old enough, remember how bitterly people complained at the high price they had to pay for everything at the close of the late rebellion and how they sighed for the good old days of 6-penny calico? And then, again, a few years later, when the depression came, the same people pointed back to "war prices" and said, "It wasn't this way when we got \$9 and \$10 for hogs, and wheat was worth \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bushel." They forget all about the high prices they paid for tea, sugar, calico, &c.; they forget that our land was yet soaked with human blood and that for four dreary years our turkey buzzard had fattened on human flesh; they forget that the money they received for those hogs and that wheat was worth about forty cents on the dollar—good money, too, Uncle Sam's promise to pay. Poor old fellow! he had had a desperately bad state of affairs in his family, and it came near ruining him. So much for the past—a glorious time, indeed, if we eliminate the bad and retain the good and desirable. Now, about the future. It certainly contains easier and better times. Everybody says so, and has been saying so for years, and there must be some truth in what everybody says. You have all heard the remark, "We have reached the bottom and there must be a change." Perhaps some of you have even made this statement. I have, and of late have been wondering where I got my authority for so speaking and have made up my mind that it was merely a matter of imagination and that I imagined what I wished and not anything that the condition of the land pointed to, and farther, that the same was true of at least a very large per cent. of the others who joined in the same chorus. The belief in good times in the near future has been general. Millions of money have been invested and millions of debts contracted on the strength of this belief—a belief founded on gas. I was going to say—but it was on nothing. When we resumed specie payment, the prevailing opinion was that—using the slang for it—we had "struck the hard pan;" and the great American people, in the vividness of their imagination, saw their financial prospects descending like a great rubber ball onto an adamant bed from which they expected it to rebound high into the atmosphere of prosperity. But there was a mistake. The "hard pan" proved to be mud into which the great sphere plunged and into which it has been gradually sinking ever since. It can hardly be expected now that when it does strike the genuine hard pan, that it will rebound very fast or very high. There are many causes for the present depression, but it seems to me that the chief trouble is this: The war left us with an inflated currency. It was not an easy matter to get this back to a solid basis. But it was done in

the course of a few years, though there was a great deal of jarring and crashing while the operation was going on, but this did not settle the matter as it ought. Why? Because the minds of the people were more inflated than the currency, and when specie payment was resumed they did not resume common sense, but without making any provision for a possible decline carried on a large credit business, insisting that prices must go up. But they didn't go up. Credit on declining prices is necessarily ruinous. Farmers bought thousands of farms on this plan and are yet paying millions of dollars in interest on the same. Who is to blame? Many of them say if they were out of debt times would be easy enough. The great men who have made finance the study of their lives, have no very plausible remedy for the existing evils, and certainly I shall not presume to suggest any, but I believe after we have tired the hard times out we shall see more prosperous days. HERRICK SUTTON.

To Every Farmer and Wife, Yes, and to their sons and daughters, we can say there is no better association for you to belong to than the Grange. If eligible, and an opportunity offers to become a member, embrace it. In fact, make it manifest that you wish to know more of the order, and, if feasible, become a member.

Parents who feel that they are advanced in life and do not need the association of the Grange themselves, should remember that the highest work they can do is to improve the lives of their children and other people's children. Do not think you know all about the Grange before you have passed within its gates. There is much of the finer and higher quality and desirability of the Grange that no outsider can or ever will appreciate while remaining without its social and educational circles.—Pacific Rural Press.

A Pleasant Endorsement of the Visitor. IRONDEQUIT, Feb. 16th. ED. VISITOR—Through the kindness of my brother I have received the Grange Visitor several years, and although not a member of your order I am a farmer and deeply interested in the prosperity of farmers and can truly say the Grange Visitor is my ideal of a farmers' paper, and so think several of my neighbors here in old western New York, and I think you will get several subscribers for your paper from this section. I send a money order for which please renew my subscription and send another copy to my friend, and oblige your hearty well wisher. WM. CASE.

ALLEGAN, MICH., Feb. 6th. ED. VISITOR—Your last issue is excellent, for there is so much in it that was said and done by our own folks. J. J. Woodman's paper on the government loan bill is fine. He is a watcher on the tower in our order and I hope he will continue to let his light shine.

Our Grange at Allegan has purchased a building (formerly a store) which we have fitted up for a hall and we greatly enjoy the feeling of complete ownership we now have in our place of meeting. In the past we have rented halls over stores or other business places and we never had a sense of freedom from intrusion that is so essential to comfort in such orders. This step has seemed to infuse more interest and energy into our members, but still I do not anticipate that the devotion to the principles of our order among us is going to work out our immediate salvation from the dire consequences of stupidity, mental laziness and ignorance. I cannot understand the utter apathy of so many in the Grange; the utter indifference to the great opportunities that are offered to all

who enter our gates. In so many ways, the order can be made subservient to the best interests of the deeply-wronged, over-taxed, unrepresented farmer and yet, as a class, farmers are so unappreciative of all these possibilities.

Can not you men who have the position of directors of thought do something without a precedent to arouse these seven sleepers? I wish you leaders were impelled with the zeal of old John Endicott when he cut the red cross out of the English flag. Yours fraternally, CONSTANCE A. B. JEWETT.

CLARKSTON, Feb. 3d. ED. VISITOR—Will you please send me a few sample copies of the Visitor for distribution at our next meeting? Our Grange, I am happy to say, is in a flourishing condition, with renewed effort at the beginning of the year, and by the aid of a well-prepared oyster supper we find plenty of work re-instating old members and initiating new ones. Young and old are alike rapping loudly at the gates for admission. Members of the new order known as the P. of I. are beginning to see and think that the Grange is the order of all farmers' organizations. They have learned the beauties and benefits of organization and are free to admit there was no call for the new order. Our literary exercises are so conducted as to make them interesting, profitable and well attended. Fraternally, E. J. BAILEY

The March number of Demorest's Family Magazine is, as usual, bright and running over with good things—something of especial interest to every member of the family. Every number brings its quota of pleasant surprises and every family should enjoy them. It is only \$2 per year and is published by W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th street, New York city.

Every room where a kerosene lamp burns should have some woolen at hand—a rug, shawl, blanket or other piece that may be quickly seized in case of accident. Let it, always, be ready; this care will cost nothing and is as good as a fire insurance. Never use water, that generates steam and scatters and increases the fire. Never use a cotton cloth, that adds fuel to the fire.—Country Gentleman.

THE BEST PLACE TO BUY

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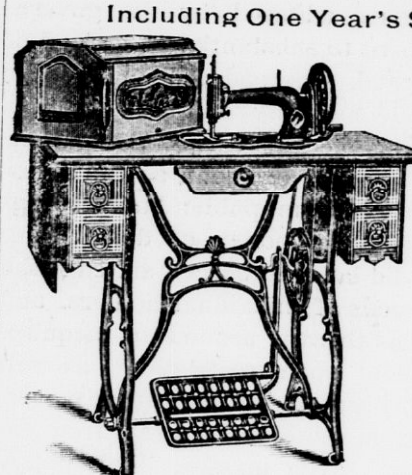
Is not always at a large importing establishment. Their horses are usually crowded and fattened, like steers for the shambles, and are overgrown and washy, liable on this account, or the effects of shipment, or change of climate, to die, or fall as breeders, for a time at least, and without being as good, or any better bred, cost more than twice as much as home bred stock. I have two stallions, bred from noted stock on both sides, imported by Dunham, and recorded in the Percheron Stud Book, that have never been forced or fattened; that have never been kept and day, summer and winter; that never were sick a moment or took a drop of medicine, that I would like to sell to make room for younger ones coming on. They are large, stylish, easy movers and fast trotters, and have good feet and heavy bone. Quality considered, will price them very low for cash or good paper. DON'T BUY TILL YOU SEE THEM. Grade Stallions, Mares and heavy Geldings for A. W. HAYDON, DECATUR, MICH.

SORGHUM

A little book that every farmer ought to have is the "Sorghum Hand Book" which may be had free by addressing The Plymmer Iron Works Co., of Cincinnati, O. Sorghum is a very valuable crop for syrup-making, feed, and fodder, and this pamphlet gives full information about the different species, best modes of cultivation, etc. Send and get it and read it.

True Danvers Onion Seed. My seed farms extend into Danvers, and I frequently buy of the best onion raisers three hundred bushels of their handsomest onions to plant to grow seed from, sometimes paying as high as five dollars a barrel. I offer such seed, all this year's growth and of my own raising, at \$3.00 a pound, with a discount on large quantities. Much of the onion seed sold is either too flat or too round for true Danvers. Choice Danvers carrot seed, \$1.00 per pound. Seed catalogue sent FREE to every one. JAS. J. H. GREGORY & SON, Marblehead, Mass.

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We have made such arrangements as enable us to offer the Chicago SINGER SEWING MACHINES at the above low rates. This machine is made after the latest models of the Singer machines, and is a perfect fac simile in shape, ornamentation and appearance. All the parts are made to gauge exactly the same as the Singer, and are constructed of precisely the same materials. The utmost care is exercised in the selection of the metals used, and only the very best quality is purchased. Each machine is thoroughly well made and is fitted with the utmost nicety and exactness, and no machine is permitted by the inspector to go out of the shops until it has been fully tested and proved to do perfect work, and run light and without noise. The Chicago Singer Machine has a very important improvement in a Loose Balance Wheel, so constructed as to permit winding bobbins without removing the work from the machine. EACH MACHINE IS FURNISHED WITH THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS: HEMMERS, RUFFLER, TUCKER, PACKAGE OF NEEDLES, CHECK SPRING, THROAT PLATE, WRENCH, THREAD CUTTER, BINDER, BOBBINS, SCREW DRIVER, GAUGE, GAUGE SCREW, OIL-CAN, filled with Oil, and INSTRUCTION BOOK.

Price, including one year's subscription, \$15. Sent by freight, receiver to pay charges. Give name of freight station if different from post-office address. Address, with the money, GRANGE VISITOR, Paw Paw, Mich.

To those interested in a Business Education, We would say that PARSONS' BUSINESS COLLEGE, OF KALAMAZOO, offers many advantages over similar schools, among which are the following: 1. The rooms are the finest in the State. 2. Five first-class instructors are employed. 3. The law lectures are given by prominent attorneys of the city. 4. It is the largest Business College in Southwestern Michigan. 5. The course is more thorough and practical. 6. The shorthand department is far superior. 7. Students deficient in any of the English branches have a chance to prepare themselves without extra charge. 8. The college has been established for 22 years, and has a national reputation. 9. We publish our own text-books, which are having a large sale in all parts of the U. S. 10. The president of the college gives his personal attention to all examinations, and knows the standing of all the students. Send for catalogue. W. F. PARSONS, Pres't.

The Cheapest Music House in the World. For the purpose of introducing our goods throughout the country, and to address our friends, we will for a short time send any person one of the following instruments on receipt of cash to pay for Box and Shipping. It is expected that every person receiving one of these instruments will show it and inform others where he bought it. We will only send one to each person. We will send a \$10 Ole Bull Violin for \$2. Outfit consisting of Violin, Italian Strings, Maple Bridge, Ebony Fiddle and Full-piece Inlaid with Pearl, Snakewood Bow with Ivory Trimmings, Music Book of Instructions, containing over eighty-five pieces of Choice and Latest Selections of Music, all packed in a neat strong Case, \$2. \$10 George Christy Banjo, \$3. Maple Shell, Silver Plate Rim, Metal Head Fastenings, Italian Strings, Book of Instructions. All in neat Case \$3. \$10 Celebrated Aimee Guitar, \$3. Maple Shell, Silver Plate Rim, Ebony Fiddle, Pearl Trimmings, Patent Head, Pearl Inlaid, Sound Hole and Edge, Italian Strings, Music Book in strong Case \$3. Send Money by Postal Note. Send Stamp for Catalogue. L. W. LINCOLN & CO., Chicago, Illinois.

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THE GRANGE NEWS.

(THE ONLY PAPER IN THE WORLD PUBLISHED ON A FARM.) Was changed from a semi-monthly to a weekly publication, Jan. 1st, 1891. Its Subscription rates are as follows: 1 copy, 1 year, \$ 1.00 2 copies, " " .95 each 1.90 4 " " " .85 " 3.40 5 " " " .80 " 4.00

It is an 8-page paper and all home print, and the official organ of the Grange in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. N. B.—To introduce the GRANGE NEWS to the readers of the VISITOR we will send it a full year to the FIRST HUNDRED sending in their subscriptions for 85 Cents each! Sample copies free. GRANGE NEWS PUBLISHING CO., OLD HARMONY, ILL.

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## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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AT 50 CENTS PER ANNUM.

A. C. GLIDDEN, Editor and Manager,  
PAW PAW, MICH.

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## To Subscribers.

Send money when possible by either postal note or money order. We prefer a dollar bill for two subscribers, to 50 cents in stamps for one. The bank will take the dollar, but they refuse the stamps.

We shall send the paper only so long as it is paid for. If you wish it continued, a prompt renewal will keep it constantly coming and save us the trouble of making the changes. If numbers fail to reach you, or your post-office address is changed, notify us at once and we will gladly send another number and make the desired change. Packages of papers will be sent to all who desire them for distribution.

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

## Michigan Land Sharks.

The land-sharks are continually on the lookout for new fields. The land office at Washington is said to have obtained information that a Michigan lumber company are hiring men in Chicago to go to the state of Washington and make entries of the public timber lands for the purpose of transferring them to the company. Each man is to receive \$800 and expenses, and 90 men are said to have been already sent out to that state. The amount of land coveted by the company is supposed to be not less than 100,000 acres. Numerous frauds on the public domain have already been perpetrated by lumber companies, and the government is taking active measures to put a stop to future frauds in this direction. —*Farmer's Review.*

In a daily paper of recent date, published in Detroit, appears the following from its Washington correspondent:

The general land office is about to promulgate a decision which will send to patent about \$100,000 worth of lands held by Gen. Russell A. Alger in the state of Washington. The case is entitled the United States vs. Stephen S. Bailey, Ravand K. Hawley and Russell A. Alger, transferees; it has to do with timber land entries in what is known as the Olympia series.

In July, 1888, Special agent J. M. Carson reported recommending the cancellation of all the entries, first because they were made in a fraudulent manner, and secondly because the lands were agricultural in character, and therefore not subject to entry under the act of June 3, 1888.

The defendants by their attorneys moved that all proceedings against the entries be dismissed, and that the same be reinstated and passed to patent. The motion was based on the grounds that the land department has no jurisdiction over a cash entry after the issuance and delivery to the entryman of the receiver's receipt, and that as such receipt was given in each of said cases, the officers of said department had no power or authority to investigate the charges made by said special agent.

It was charged by Special Agent Carson that each of the timber entries involved was made by some party other than the entryman. This, if proved, would be fatal to the entries. Each entryman before purchasing swore he was not seeking the same "on speculation, but in good faith to appropriate to his own exclusive use or benefit; that he has not directly or indirectly made any agreement or contract in any way or manner with any person or persons whomsoever by which the title he may acquire from the government shall insure in whole or in part to the benefit of any person except himself."

Ex-parte affidavits introduced in support of the charges of fraud

were held inadmissible as evidence because contrary to rule 40 of practice, namely: "That due opportunity will be allowed opposing claimants to confront and cross-examine witnesses introduced by either party."

Thus it appears that the evidence adduced by the government to substantiate its claim of fraud, was rendered valueless by a technicality, and the guilt was condoned by issuing the patent.

The government, as the custodian of the public lands, recognizes the policy of distributing said lands in parcels suited to the needs of individual holders, and has thrown around its acquisition such restrictions as will prevent greed and lust for power, from snatching it away from entry by the masses. This policy is frequently subverted, as in the above instance. Men of large wealth and influence seem to have the faculty of hypnotising government officials in a manner to serve their ends. Mineral lands and valuable timber tracts have thus been gobbled up in the northern peninsula and sent to patent, by processes not taught in the decalogue nor understood by the people generally. Alliance agitators and labor unions are advocating visionary schemes. The one would set the printing presses at work making money to distribute to those asking it, and the other would seize, under the right of eminent domain, all vacant lands held for speculation. When men see the public domain being thus held, and labor constantly adding to its value, without a share in the general prosperity, there are grounds for the unrest which prevails.

Ambition to rule is the motive which inspires this greed. If the masses would utterly refuse to vote or to support the men who want the earth as a passport to Washington, the rebuke would be salutary. Millionaires are having too much to do with public affairs. They may throw an occasional sop to the people in the way of charity to dull the edge of criticism, but they recoup the largess by adding another township to their possessions by methods which the government questions, but which it seems unable to successfully oppose. Gen. Alger is probably no worse than many others in the state, who have an itching for all the timber that stands to hold for speculative purposes, but it seems that he has a faculty of acquiring possession not enjoyed by the average citizen.

The president of Bowdoin college very aptly says: "Laws against unproductive speculation are difficult to enforce, and against sinecures and superfluous functionaries there can be no legal statute. As long as the rich man is worshiped simply because he is a rich man, and according to the extravagance of his expenditures, without regard to the value of the service he renders, so long will the improvement of social conditions, whether by agitation or enactment, be impossible."

## Wants and For Sale.

We have decided to set apart a column in the next number of the VISITOR, headed as above, in which a five line notice from subscribers will be inserted once free. If it is desired to continue the notice for another issue, ten cents per line must be forwarded in advance to secure the space.

This new departure is for subscribers only, and is started to aid in the transfer of articles, animals, seeds, second hand implements, etc., subscribers have for sale, and to voice the wants of our friends. We hope read-

ers of the VISITOR will freely use the columns and make it a valuable feature of the paper. A five line notice will contain about 40 words, including name and post-office address. If more than 50 words are needed to describe an article or a farm for sale, a rate of ten cents for eight words will be charged for the excess. We desire to extend this feature to as many patrons as possible, and therefore must restrict the use of space.

## "Why Don't You Take the Visitor?"

Every head of a family who is now, or ever has been a member of the Grange, should be confronted with this question by some of our subscribers. We need, and believe the paper deserves, a wider hearing, and it can have it if you, brother, will ask the above question when the next occasion presents itself. Everywhere people are eager for sample copies. The paper is well known throughout the state. It only needs a little effort on the part of each reader to double the list in ninety days. In several Granges only half a dozen copies are sent. One deputy has just been appointed who is not a subscriber. We shall be glad to put a bundle of VISITORS in his hand to stimulate his zeal. Other Granges put a copy in every family represented. North Star Grange, in Gratiot county, has sent a list, since our last issue, of 50 names with the money. May it be the guiding Star to every Grange in the State. Pass the question around: "WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE VISITOR?"

We have been in attendance at eleven farmers' institutes so far, and have studied to catch the prevailing sentiment regarding the questions which are at issue among the masses, and upon those which may be said to have fairly passed by. There are always persons in ever community who have some grievance to which they are wedded, and are seeking an opportunity to deliver themselves of their burden. In some instances it is the mortgage, which rear themselves into a colossal column when arrayed for addition. They infer or assume that some combination of forces compels them to submit to the domination of the individual mortgage, from which they ought to be released by legislative enactment. At almost every institute this opinion, in some one of its phases, is presented. Only to be squelched by an overwhelmingly adverse sentiment. The many are helped into an independent position by the credit given through the mortgage who could never have succeeded without it, while the few are unable to extricate themselves from mortgage indebtedness, for which no one but themselves is responsible.

No one can attend an institute now without being struck with the improvement in the intellectual capacity of farmers for advocating any measure up for examination. Discussions in the Grange, and in farmers' clubs, have cultivated a readiness of speech, and the knack of thinking clearly while standing on their feet, that is very gratifying. Fallacies and bubbles are criticised and cut up in a way to shame them into silence. Cranky notions always get a black eye by some farmer with a head full of horse sense and a handy way of using it. Every farmers' institute develops the fact that farmers are capable of attending to their own business, without the aid of politicians,

and that they intend to have their political preferences considered, or they will kick over the traces and elect the other fellow.

A farmers' institute is a good sanitarium for both the pessimist and the politician.

Our readers have noticed the incubator advertised by Geo. H. Stahl in our columns. We have been asked to tell what we know about it. We don't know anything about it, but there are lots of people who do, and if they tell the truth in a catalogue now before us it will hatch chickens from nine out of every ten good, unadulterated eggs that are put into or under it. There is a report that some yankee is manufacturing eggs at three cents per dozen. We shouldn't advise our readers to expect such eggs to hatch out light Brahmas, we haven't faith in the incubator to that degree. On the cover of the catalogue mentioned above (which anyone can get by addressing the advertiser) is a picture of a pie "set before the king" made from the traditional "four and twenty blackbirds." These are all sticking their heads through the crust, presumably restored by the energy of the incubator. There are no affidavits accompanying this representation and we must again caution our readers not to expect too much from any incubator, although most things advertised in the VISITOR can be relied on, as many of our subscribers have proved.

We have recently examined the prospectus and sample pages of a new dictionary published by Funk & Wagnalls, 18-20 Astor place, New York. The work seems to have been very thoroughly done and many innovations have been noted which are marked improvements on old methods. The use of the phonetic alphabet in the pronunciation of words, very full and explicit definitions, location of all quotations giving volume and page where found, and not only lists of synonyms, but the shades of meaning attached to each, making very plain their proper use and place. One example selected at random will suffice to show the method and commend the book to all:

Abase—to degrade; debase; humble; to lower in position, estimation, or the like; as, to abase the proud.

Synonyms—bring low, cast down, debase, degrade, depress, disgrace, humble, humiliate, reduce, lower, sink. Abase refers only to outward conditions. "Exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high." Ezek. xxi, 26. Debase applies to quality or character. The coinage is debased by excess of alloy, the man by vice. A sense of unworthiness humbles; a shameful insult humiliates; imprisonment for crime disgraces; vile practices lower. Degrade may refer either to station or character. An officer is degraded by being reduced to the ranks. Drunkenness is a degrading vice. Misfortune or injustice may abase the good; nothing but their own ill doing can debase or disgrace them.

Antonyms—aggrandize, dignify, elevate, exalt, honor, promote, raise.

In the Detroit *Journal* of Feb. 20 appears an article from the pen of A. J. Knisley, of Benton Harbor, on the "Patrons' Commercial Union" enterprise, which is rather more severe than our article on the same subject in the January 1st number of the VISITOR. He says:

To accumulate this large sum of money, collecting a dollar here and a dollar there, and get it all into the hands of one man, is practicable; it can be done. But when lodge after lodge

and individual after individual have gone over to the alliance or, for some other reason, have backslid and put themselves in the attitude of what the P. of I. managers are pleased to term "thieves," they will not be very likely to be consulted as to the final disposition to be made of this fortune. To distribute it again and put it back into the original pockets whence it came will not be practicable. Will that ever be done?

When my brother farmers find themselves with \$100,000 lying around loose, that they do not know what to do with, they had better exercise a little common sense and go slow about placing it in the hands of strangers without good security. If, as appears from the public prints, there has already, at this early stage in the history of this enterprise, occurred one defalcation of \$1400, which bondsmen have been called upon to make good, what is to hinder rats from gnawing through some night and getting away with \$100,000; and if they ever should, what sort of a figure would a \$20,000 bond cut?

A. J. KNISLEY.

The VISITOR is favored with a report of a reception tendered to Duncan Buchanan, the sheriff elect of Huron county, by his neighbors and friends, before leaving his home for the county seat to assume the duties of his office. Mr. Buchanan was an active member of the Grange, and, as appears from the many pleasant words said to him on the occasion, he received the votes of all parties as an expression of the high regard in which he was held in the community where he has lived. Mr. Buchanan renewed his subscription to the VISITOR, after settling down to his official duties at Bad Axe, which is an evidence that his zeal for the order has not abated. We trust and predict that the reputation of the "Axe" which he is handling will not change from "Bad" to worse, but the opposite.

A correspondent writes that the Grange to which he belongs is raising a sum of money to invest in GRANGE VISITORS to come regularly in a bundle to the Secretary for distribution where they will be likely to influence desirable persons to become members of the order. We shall be very glad to make liberal terms for such purposes, and invite correspondence in regard to it.

The lectures of Dr. Kedzie, of the Agricultural college, upon "Beet Sugar," before the State Farmers' Institutes, are creating a wide spread enthusiasm for a trial of the industry in the state. The lectures show that in both temperature and rainfall the southern half of Michigan is equal to that of France or Germany, where beet sugar is the principal industry.

As will be seen by a glance at our 8th page advertising columns, the Whipple Harrow Co. again hang out their sign. This company offers to send their goods at wholesale rates to an agent appointed by any Grange or club, and he can distribute tools and repairs at such commission as may be mutually satisfactory. To Granges desiring such arrangements here is your opportunity.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE—MASTER'S OFFICE, BERRIEN CENTER: The following are deputies for 1891: A. Luther, Barry county; E. W. Allis, Adrian, Lenawee county; Sister E. D. Nokes, Church's Corners, Hillsdale county; Samuel Bruce Jones, Cass county; J. D. M. Fisk, Coldwater, Branch county; R. V. Clark, Buchanan, Berrien county; T. F. Rodgers, Ravenna, Muskegon county; Isaac A. West, North Branch, Lapeer county; James Williams, Eastport, Antrim county; Robert Alward, Hudsonville, Ottawa county; Wm. Clark, Charlevoix county, THOS. MARS.

From 1st page.

pressively. These evils may, perhaps, be mitigated by proper legislation. It is just to observe that "in 1865 the Vanderbilt roads charged \$3.45 for carrying a barrel of flour from Chicago to Boston. In 1885 the charge had been reduced to 68 cents. The profit to the railroad by the transaction was 14 cents, or less than the value of the empty barrel. A very large part of our railway mileage to-day pays no dividends on stock; much of it does not even pay interest on the bonds issued for its construction." But how is the transfer from private property to public property to be made? Here is a great difficulty. No one has yet been able to give us a satisfactory and feasible plan. If the U. S. gets possession of railroads and other industries, it must be either with or without compensation. Perhaps none but the rankest socialists would so disregard the laws of equity as to advocate seizing private property by government without compensation in time of peace. And when we remember that the aggregate value of our railways is at least \$8,000,000,000, the question arises, do the people who are now complaining of heavy taxes, desire to add this sum to the public debt? I am unable to give the estimated value of express and other private companies which it is proposed to bring under government control. It must be immense.

But, if possible, above and beyond all these considerations there is that covert slavery for the people which must inevitably follow state ownership of private enterprises. "Every additional state interference strengthens the tacit assumption that it is the duty of the state to deal with all evils and secure all benefits. Increasing power of a growing administrative organization is accompanied by decreasing power of the rest of the society to resist its further growth and control." P. H. DOWLING.

ROME, Mich.

Clinton County Pomona.

Clinton County Pomona Grange met at the hall of Bengal Grange Jan. 22, held a very pleasant and interesting session. There was present a large delegation of enthusiastic Patrons from nearly every Grange in the county, full of words of cheer and zeal for the work for the ensuing year. The morning session was occupied with reports from subordinate Granges and from different committees. When the dinner hour was announced, it was not long ere the well loaded tables were surrounded with hungry Patrons who did ample justice to the grand feast which the good cooks of Bengal Grange had prepared before them.

The afternoon session convened at 1:30 p. m., and after excellent music rendered by the choir, we were welcomed to the hall of Bengal Grange by Miss Bertha Lyons in such appropriate words as to make all present feel welcome. She spoke of the benefits the young derive from the Grange. The world is looking to America for their greatest improvements, and the Grange is the agency among the farmers whereby progress is attained. No other order has ever equaled it. This able address was responded to by F. W. Redfern, of Essex Grange. He said that our young sister being a member of Bengal Grange verified the fact that it was a place for the improvement of the young, and fitted them to fill ably the ranks vacated by such pioneers as Cortland Hill and others, who in early days were called upon to fill these positions.

Then followed the installation of officers by Mrs. Jenne, of Essex Grange. We believe there is not a brother or sister in Michigan who can perform this task equal to her. Every part is committed to memory, no book is referred to, and everything is done in perfect order.

The hour being late, our discussion was not lengthy. The question, What is the difference between free coinage of silver and unlimited coinage was ably discussed by J. M. Dewitt, J. F. Clemons, A. G. Gunnison and I. D. Richmond, which was instructive and threw much light on the subject. The afternoon meeting

then adjourned, and after a grand feast and an hour of social enjoyment, the evening session convened. For three hours we listened to a literary entertainment of sentiment and fun not to be surpassed, and reflected much credit upon all who took an active part. Long live and flourish Bengal Grange.

MRS. A. GUNNISON, Rep.

Free Text Books and County Supervision.

ED. VISITOR:

The above subjects are creating much interest throughout the state and are receiving much attention from all classes and especially from the Patrons of Husbandry. Our legislature is deluged with bills embodying some feature of the subject matter that heads our communication.

To the agricultural and industrial classes in general, the question of education is vitally important.

The school has been the chief instrument in rasing the working classes from abject slavery and endless woes. It is knowledge that has made labor honorable. In the classic age popular education was unknown, and the great mass of men lived in Slavery, weighed down by caste and tyranny. There were no common schools for the people at Rome, there was no free education in Greece, knowledge was confined to the ruling caste, and civilization perished for want of it. Europe of the middle ages sank into a deeper barbarism. No man was honorable who did not wield the sword. It is impossible to conceive of the intense disdain with which these men in armor looked down upon all the laboring throng. The farmer was usually a slave. The various trades and arts that now build cities and found nations were contemned. A fierce, ignorant, unsparring aristocracy sat like a nightmare upon Europe.

There can be no doubt that to the working class the free schools have been the source of endless progress. A century of steady advance has made the laboring man the ruler instead of the slave. It was on knowledge that Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin founded their republic, and for its support they invoked the universal education of the people.

Our common school system has sprung up majestic and imperishable, an answer to their invocation. It is the friend of labor; it teaches that all must work who live. But while our graded schools in village and city have been pushed towards perfection, the district schools, the educators of the voters, has been left to go to seed and weeds.

Out state, to preserve and advance the cause of education, must look to the intelligence producing sources of her government. These sources are the common schools. That the coming citizen may come well equipped into the possession of citizenship, it is necessary that he spend a portion of the years of his youth in the preparation for the responsibilities of citizenship. That there may be no abstacle in the pathway of the poorest citizen's children, the state should furnish free text books to the children attending her free school.

It is cheaper for the state to educate her children to lives of usefulness than to reform those lives, when warped by crime and disobedience. Let our legislature give us free text books and compulsory education and it will strengthen the safe guards of the state.

Our present system of County Supervision has been in force four years, next August. In every county where the secretary has done his duty, there has been great advance in education and great improvement in the efficiency of the common school.

In Oceana county there has been a gain in attendance in our eighty-six schools, of 18 per cent. Last year a committee of five secretaries, together with the State Superintendent, prepared and submitted a course of study which contemplates a careful gradation of the common schools of the state. In every county where that course of study has been intelligently followed, the schools have been made more efficient, better educators for the farmer's children. We submit

that the growth of education during the three and a half years in the common schools has no parallel in the history of educational advancement.

The grading system is bringing into our schools, many children who never attended, and, better still, holding them there.

The people are getting in sympathy with the movement, as they see it widens the usefulness of the schools that educate their children.

Would it be wise then to change such a system?

Why should a tree that bears good fruit be cut down? Surely it is a good policy to maintain that which has proved good.

If our legislature would pass a law making text books free and compelling the attendance of every child in the district, at least four months in the year, basing a teachers promotion and retention in the school by the efficiency of school room work, issuing not to exceed three third grade certificates, before a teacher is ready for the second grade, our educational advancement would take on a step that would soon place us far in the lead in knowledge.

D. E. McCLURE.

Sec'y. Oceana Co. Schools.

SOUTH HAVEN, Mich., Jan. 28.

ED. VISITOR: I notice that both the retiring and incoming governors strongly recommend the abrogation of the useless and expensive system requiring the return of the delinquent taxes on real estate to the auditor general's office for settlement. Now, is it not singular that while a change has been repeatedly recommended in the last message of the retiring governor; this is the first occasion in which the incoming governor has ventured to attack the evil in his inaugural?

Why this is so I leave others to guess. Those who have given the matter much study are well aware that the system as heretofore managed puts in the hands of the auditor general more patronage of appointment and a stronger control of the press than all the other state offices together.

The unrestricted power of appointing over sixty clerks who look only to him for their position and salaries, added to the almost absolute control of at least one paper in each county, is a huge power to put in the hands of one man, without check in the manner of its exercise, and may, perhaps, explain why an incoming governor might hesitate to provoke the war which has ever been waged against anyone attempting to expose or change the practice.

The system is a rotten excrescence upon the body politic, costing over a quarter of a million annually, and the taxpayers foot the bill without any possible beneficial returns, and some suspicious individuals have more than suspected that the inducement for the scramble for that office, at every election, lies more in the patronage and stealings than in the meagre salary.

While the real reason for retaining the system is the patronage it puts in the hands of the dominant party, the ostensible reason given has always been to facilitate the collection of state taxes and strengthen tax titles.

Over forty years of trial having failed in both cases, is it not time to try some simpler, more effective and less expensive plan. For instance, make the tax on real estate a first lien from and after the first of December, and if not paid by the first of March, to bear interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum, computed quarterly in advance, and in case the tax and interest are not paid by the first of July thereafter, any person may purchase said lien, at the county treasurer's office, the county treasurer to give to the purchaser a certificate of sale, and at the same time file a duplicate thereof in the office of the county register, to be by him recorded in a separate book kept for that purpose, and if said lien is not removed in five years by payment of full amount of tax and interest as above, the owner of said lien may proceed to enforce collection in like manner as now provided for the foreclosure of mortgage.

Tax liens would then be sought

after by capitalists as a safe and profitable investment.

The county would at once get the tax, the taxpayer would be relieved of the enormous interest and charges levied by the present system, all rights preserved, and in case of sale the title be perfect and future litigation avoided.

It appears to me that a carefully worded law embodying the above principles would prove simple, cheap and effective.

W. H. HURLBUT.

GRATTAN, Feb. 20.

ED. VISITOR:

Following is a brief report of the meeting of Grattan Grange on the evening of Feb. 19. Two weeks prior to the meeting we sent out an invitation to the P. of I. organization to join us in discussing the 2 per cent land loan bill, which was accepted. The evening brought out a goodly number of earnest Patrons from each order. The W. M. called the meeting to order. After singing by the choir, the secretary read the bill. The W. M. made a few remarks regarding the importance of the bill, and others followed, discussing both sides of the bill according to their views. We think there were three or four in favor of the bill, with restrictions on big land owners and the amount loaned. They thought the bill all right otherwise. The majority did not favor it. They could not see where farmers as a class, especially small farmers, would receive any benefit from it. They thought there were defects in the bill that would cause more trouble and make more expense for farmers than it would benefit them. Our meeting was interspersed with good singing, and before we were aware of it the time had arrived for closing. The Master wishing to know how the house stood on the question, requested those in favor of it to arise. Three responded. Then the negative was put. We did not count those that arose, but certainly more than half the audience stood up, while others said they knew so little of the bill they would not vote. I came near forgetting the two select readings taken from the Visitor, also the sister who spoke twice, which was remarkable, and we are delighted to see the sisters taking hold of the work.

Fraternally yours,

AUNT KATE.

RIVES JUNCTION, Jan. 20.

ED. VISITOR:

Upon taking up the Grange Visitor on my return home, after an absence of two months, I am reminded that another year has rolled around, and I hasten to send fifty cents, as I desire to continue my subscription. The Grange meets my sentiments much better than any other farmers' organization. The Patrons of Industry lived and died in our vicinity in one year, and now the Alliance is trying to work its scheme. I attended the convention recently held here, but could not coincide with the views there expressed. I believe in upholding the constitution of the United States, including the fifteenth amendment.

If you can explain how the Alliance North and South can work together, probably many of your readers would like to be informed.

Yours truly,

H. B. FOOTE.

ALMONT, Jan. 24.

ED. VISITOR:

Berlin Grange No. 463 had an oyster supper and public installation of its officers on the evening of Jan. 21, and a very pleasant time was enjoyed by all. Bro. Carlton of Kenosha Grange acted as installing officer.

W. A. CAMERON, Sec'y.

ALABEDON, Jan. 26.—ED. VISITOR: Are not secretaries of the Grange entitled to the GRANGE VISITOR free. If so please send the same to Secretary of Grange.

[We know of no rule that has ever been adopted by the Executive Committee granting such favor. Your Grange should provide you the paper free as some compensation for your labor. We think this hint to your Grange will be sufficient.—ED.]



Lovett's Early Strawberry.

Each spring brings a crop of Strawberry, Potato and Rose novelties with the same certainty that the later months give us a supply of fruits, Vegetables and Flowers. The novelty crop the present spring promises to be unusually large. As is well known nearly all of these highly vaunted new sorts are "popular for a season" only; nine out of ten, almost ninety-nine out of a hundred proving unfit for general cultivation. If, however, it were, not for the new varieties our Gardens, Fields and Orchards would soon be in a sad state; it being a demonstrated and unfortunate fact that varieties slowly but surely deteriorate.

In Lovett's Early Strawberry, now being disseminated by the J. T. Lovett Co., Little Silver, N. J., (from whose nurseries emanated that grand late strawberry, the Gandy, the Cuthbert raspberry, etc.) we believe fruit growers and fruit lovers have a prize, unsurpassed if equalled in value and merit by any variety ever introduced. It originated in Kentucky near the home of J. S. Downer, the originator of the famous Chas. Downing, Kentucky, and Downer's Prolific Strawberries; and has been subjected to the severest tests in field culture for several years, both in Kentucky and New Jersey; proving in every instance everything that can be desired in an early variety and without a single defect.

The variety may be briefly described as follows: In size, it is large to very large, almost equalling the sharpless, and exceptionally uniform in both size and shape; holding its size to the close of the season better than any other known variety. Color, brilliant crimson with yellow seed; coloring all over at once and never with a green tip or end. Extra high quality and of great firmness; equalling as a shipper the celebrated Wilson. The plant is of strong, vigorous growth, never rusting or scalding and the most prolific of any variety we have ever seen; upon poor soil and under careless culture, surpassing even that paragon of productiveness, the Crescent, in its yield of fruit. Unlike almost all other prolific varieties it has a strongly staminate or perfect blossom, similar to the old Wilson. Its season is early to very early, ripening in advance of Crescent, the Wilson, etc., but not so early as Crystal City or Michel's Early by two or three days which varieties, however, it trebles in size and yield. Lovett's Early is believed to be a cross between the Crescent and Wilson and is the only early, large, prolific and firm strawberry as yet offered. For further information address introducers. See advertisement in another column.

Mrs. M. E. W. Sherwood does not agree with Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells as to the reason "Why More Girls do not Marry." She thinks that a man's brutality and strength often recommend him to the other sex. Her reply will appear in the March number of the North American Review.

P. of H. Seed House.

HAVE FURNISHED SEEDS TO P. OF H. FOR EIGHT YEARS. UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE GRANGE.

Send for the Patrons' Special Price List. Address below.

Water-Cleaned Seeds  
Never Fail! Why?  
Because the light seed is all washed out and what is left must grow. One trial will convince you. Catalogue and Garden Guide FREE.  
Heman Class, Seed Grower, Rochester, N. Y.

## Ladies' Department.

## March Winds.

Though fierce and noisy their voice to-night,  
A message is gathered, sweet and bright,  
In the undertone of discords lay—  
The blessing of springtime on its way—  
For I live by faith, and not by sight.

Weird and tremulous, pitiful strains,  
Followed by fanciful, low refrains,  
Lead me wandering over the years  
In which were mingled pleasures and fears,  
While spring is coming, and winter wanes.

March is the passageway to a life  
Of love made beautiful out of strife:  
The winds, as they shrilly come and go,  
But dissipate icy bands and snow,  
Revealing the inner workings rife.

Flowers upraise their tenderest forms,  
Fearless of passing gales or of storms;  
The soul of mortal by faith aspires  
To heavenly light and grand desires,  
For love is its life which loving warms.

And hope is needless, and faith is past,  
No more is the vision overcast,  
All things are joyful, and hearts are free,  
So springtime, nature, and souls, agree  
That life is love, to be holden fast.

Hazel Wylie.

## She.

You'll discover as you pass her, and you readily  
will class her as a graduate of Vassar  
Or of Smith.  
But she's not the sort of woman that the humor-  
ists inhuman choose their jokelets to illu-  
minate—

Nor a myth.

Though the tortoise-shell eye-glasses she affected  
in her classes still her faultless nose har-  
asses,  
N'importe.

She'll decipher dactylography, Silurian geography,  
or mystical cryptography,  
For sport.

While fully stocked with knowledge in her crani-  
um of 'ologies, instilled at female colleges,  
I trow.

Her attractiveness embraces all the dainty, win-  
some graces from the prehistoric races  
Down to now.

She'll dissect a philosopher, or articulate one for  
us, yes, and scan a page of Horace,  
Quickly, too.

And although a bit pedantic, she's by no means  
Browning-fanatic, but, per contra, is roman-  
tic.

Entre nous.

She can give an explanation of the Pliocene forma-  
tion and describe the situation  
Of its strata.

And will argue like a stoic, and as seemingly her-  
oic, of the age paleozoic  
And its data.

She, her ideas quite Platonical, and in a way mem-  
monical, though hardly called canonical,  
Advances

With uncertain erudition in her heart they're no  
admission, and she strengthens the suspi-  
cion

By her glances.

Though her learning is extensive, and, it follows,  
most expensive, no one need be apprehen-  
sive

For her reason;

Ideas which she seems to cling to, later on she'll  
offer wing to, common sense she then will  
bring to

Bear in season.

For this educated creature has a mother who will  
teach her when no other one can reach her  
With a book.

That for which a man will prize her, be he mil-  
lionaire or miser, it is this—to make you  
wiser—

How to cook.

—Good Housekeeping.

One sunbeam shot across a cloudy day  
Can brighten all the drear expanse of skies;  
One loving smile can make a weary way  
A path to paradise.

—Clinton Scollard.

## Women in Colleges and Universities.

Long strides have been made by public sentiment in the position of women as educators in our land. Time was when the work of teaching the young mind was given entirely to men, they being especially fitted by nature and education for that work. While I will not deny that in those earlier days men's education was far in advance of woman's, yet Dame Nature gifted the human family very much then as now.

Woman is an aggressive creature, and if man had desired to keep all the high places for himself, he should never have allowed his daughter to learn the alphabet; for, given the key, she has unlocked the storehouse of learning and made its treasures her own, until this last decade of the 19th century finds her only a step or two below her brothers on the ladder of fame, and with womanly tenacity and perseverance she holds fast every step gained, and is still reaching out and up for something more.

As a teacher in the lower grades of our schools, woman's position is secure, and her advent into this department has worked a revolution in the government of the same. In "the good old times" to which so many make reference, the first qualification of a teacher was the ability to administer a certain number of floggings, canings, &c. All this is changed, and for whipping a scholar now the teacher loses his or her place; and still the world

goes on; and that all are just as well satisfied seems evident, for now more than 60 per cent of our teachers are women, and this, too, when those in control of educational matters are almost exclusively men.

Now, is it not true that the same qualifications that have made woman successful thus far, are essential to her further advancement in our schools? For nearly a quarter of a century—some twenty years—in our University, which was the first of our great schools to open its doors to the girls, she has been on a par with her brother, and if he would retain his worthily won laurels, he must be up and doing, and his achievement will be quite as great as when he competed with men only.

Woman has never been slow to avail herself of all the helps within her reach, and to-day among her ranks may be found those fitted to fill any Professor's chair in our state.

Is it just or fair that, having educated the girls equally with their brothers, by reason of old-time ideas and customs, they should be proscribed from the use of these high attainments as instructors in the same institutions where they received their education, and remanded to inferior places in our high schools and seminaries, and their best efforts in a measure lost or only half felt—in other words misplaced—and the world is the loser.

This seems to me a subject demanding our attention at the present time, and as the Grange is professedly in the front rank among educational influences, it seems to me fitting that Paw Paw Grange No. 10 should not be behind in thinking and talking of this matter.

There has been a steady increase in the number of young ladies in the University each year until they have now reached the number of four hundred, and for four years of their lives these girls are almost wholly shut out from association with women who shall stand to them as an older, wiser, friend and mother as well as teacher, and are left with none to whom they naturally and familiarly turn for advice in the many trying experiences that may come to them in that space of time, and are thus left to use their own immature and undisciplined judgment or that of their school-girl friends.

Is it not time, is it not proper, that we, as supporters of this school, as Patrons, ask that of the one hundred and fifteen instructors there, our girls shall have this need of their school-life recognized, and at least a small share of her instruction be given by those of her own sex?

We are all not a little proud of our University, and are yet more ambitious for its distinction and honor. New wants are found and met each year, either by a generous state or by individual effort.

I believe that a chair of Moral Ethics, and that filled by an intelligent, cultured woman, would be a step in the right direction. Indeed, I think that the dawn of the 20th century will see a radical change in the curriculum of study, and that character will receive more attention in our educational course. In this line I think I see the solving of much of the trouble now extant in our schools. The strong power of a cultivated woman to hold in check and control turbulent elements is not to be ignored.

We have seen with what tact and skill she governs her scholars until brother man has taken his cue from her, and the cane and ferule are no more a part of his outfit as a teacher.

This, like so many another subject, opens up a wide field for investigation and thought when once you start the inquiry.

MRS. N. H. BANGS.

Sorrow is not an accident, occurring now and then. It is the woof which is woven into the warp of life, and he who has not discerned the divine sacredness of sorrow, and the profound meaning which is concealed in pain, has yet to learn what life is. The cross, manifested as the necessity of the highest life, alone interprets it.—F. W. ROBERTSON.

## Weddings and Wedding Presents.

Paper read before Allegan County Council at Allegan, December 2d, 1890.

I have noticed that about the first "premonitory symptoms" of an approaching wedding is this: The bride-elect takes a trip to Chicago or Grand Rapids, accompanied by one of her "very dear confidential friends" or her dress-maker, to assist in the momentous matter of selecting the wedding gown, or gowns, as well as the great number of indispensable trivialities that go to make up the "trousseau," for 'tis getting to be the popular notion that if a young woman is about to marry she must have a large amount of clothing. One would really suppose that the betrothed maiden thought her future husband never would be able, or inclined, to provide her with anything new to wear, for 10 years at least.

For some inscrutable reason the new clothes seem to be all-important in the minds of girls about to marry. In nine cases out of ten no thought is given to providing a comfortable supply of nicely-made bedding, although some may rejoice in the possession of a silk quilt—generally of the "crazy pattern"—upon which expense enough has been lavished in the purchase of ribbons, plush, velvet, embroidery silk and other embellishments to have paid for a good pair of blankets, a comfortable, counterpane and half a dozen sheets and pillow-cases. And, parenthetically, I here wish to say that no discreet young man who has to work for a living will marry a girl who has not energy, industry and "gumption" enough to provide herself before marriage with a comfortable outfit for one bed at least and napery enough to last five years. Not that the expense of those articles would be a great consideration, but the lack of them would indicate shiftlessness and improvidence, and these are not promising characteristics in a wife.

The showy and superficial seem to be with many, of more importance than comfort and the plain utilities. In taking note of the articles prepared for an approaching wedding, one sees much to excite wonder—wonder at the utter lack of fitness to circumstances and needs. Generally there will be a bountiful supply of elaborate ties, antimacassars, gorgeous drapes and lambrequins, embroidered scarfs for dressers and scarfs for tables, and shams for pillows and shams for sheets. Almost invariably the preparation made for the future home is in the way of decoration or show, to the entire neglect of the necessities—things that must be had to make a house habitable. Our good old mothers were rigidly utilitarian, but we, their degenerate daughters, are growing decidedly esthetic in many ways.

But there is something like pathos in all this, for it indicates so clearly that the dear girls look upon the approaching marriage and the future home through a "rosy light." All looks bright, for all is illumined by the sunny rays of Hope. The fond dream of the future home is of a spot where all will be peace, tenderness and delight; where coldness, distrust and sad-eyed disappointment will never intrude. But this anticipation we know can never be realized. Disillusion will come to all, and in the crucible of the years our idols are proved only common clay.

Dissatisfaction and disappointment find their way into all our lives—disappointments so grievous that we falter as we go, and are only upheld by the thought that, though hope is gone and joy is fled, duty is still left. One noticeable feature of a stylish wedding is the crowd one meets in most cases—the ladies all in their best gowns and finest lace, with corsage bouquets of various dimensions and immense fans. After a cursory observation of the guests, you very naturally turn to note the floral decorations, for 'tis thought the proper thing to have flowers in profusion, that the house may look a bower of bloom and beauty—flowers arranged in all conceivable devices—in "marriage bells," in ships, in cars, and even in umbrellas—the latter suggesting the idea, I suppose, that hap-

py wedded love is a safe shelter from the storms of life.

Flowers at a wedding are pretty and appropriate, but in their use there is a growing tendency to extravagance and profusion that is not in good taste.

After your curiosity is duly gratified regarding all the minor details, you will quietly make your way to a point where a good view of the wedding party can be obtained, but in most cases you can only see the officiating clergyman and the backs of the bride, groom, and their attendants.

After the ceremony, while the crowd, amid jest and laugh and much skirmishing, is passing on to offer the conventional congratulations, one is quite apt to fall to wondering if the gay creatures are thinking such thoughts as George Eliot expresses in these tender, pathetic words: "What greater thing is there for two human souls, than to feel that they are joined for life, to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest in each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain, and to be one with each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting?"

After the ceremony and refreshments, the next important item on the program is going to see the presents, for "the presents" are fast becoming of more importance than all else.

Indeed, this matter of wedding presents is fast assuming appalling dimensions in public sentiment and individual experience. This need not be, of course, if we were all individualized enough to be independent about the matter, for there is no law, except the arbitrary one of social custom, obliging one to pay tribute to every bride we may chance to see married; and we ought not to be so suspicious or "commercial" in our views of others as to suppose that the invitation was prompted by the hope of the gift. That would be unjust in many cases. We all of us act from "mixed motives" more or less, no doubt, but the mainspring of all such attentions is not always mercenary. But we all know that weddings are becoming regular "donation parties," only the bride gets the benefit instead of the minister.

One very objectionable feature about the practice of giving rich, expensive presents is, that it frequently leads to much extravagance on the part of those just starting in the important business of home-making and house-keeping. Especially is this true of a young pair with limited means. For instance, John and Sarah had intended to get an inexpensive carpet for their little parlor, but some friends with more means than discretion present them with some very fine chairs, a handsome 16th century table, a dainty flower stand, beautiful pictures elaborately framed, a plush and satin tete, &c. The young folks are delighted with the gifts, but they will at once conclude that an ingrain carpet would look so unsuitable under such elegant furniture that they feel compelled to "preserve harmony" by buying a rich body Brussels or velvet carpet, and often a debt is contracted at the outset.

When we start out on the pleasant errand of buying a wedding present for some dear girl we feel a loving interest in, it would be well to keep in mind this part of the Lord's prayer, with a slight change of the personal pronoun, i. e., "Lead them not into temptation, but deliver them from evil."

In conclusion, I will briefly allude to a practice that is becoming quite popular here, in esthetic Allegan, and which can be aptly described as a sort of refined(?) charivari. I mean the practice of following the bridal party to the depot with a formidable array of unsightly old boots and shoes, which are displayed in all manner of grotesque ways, much more striking than graceful, while showers of rice are scattered over the devoted heads of the victims. Sometimes the rice is administered so adroitly that small doses find their way down the back of the groom, who, though he may quite enjoy a practical joke on ordinary occasions, will not relish it upon his wedding day.

Such practices are as unseemly

at such a time, as are all displays of extreme levity and hilarity. It may be "an old custom," but it is a rude one, and therefore it seems strange that ladies and gentlemen will forget themselves in its observance. Why need we express ourselves to-day with the borrowed folly of olden times?

CONSTANCE A. B. JEWETT.

## Two Kinds of Husbands.

A wife who knows many wives says: "Some husbands, when they get home at night, tell their wives all about the business of the day, and about their bank account, and about the people they met, and about what was spoken of, and about everything else. Other husbands never tell their wives anything about their doings during the day; never speak of the state of their finances, and never refer to their business in their households. The wife of such a husband knows nothing of his affairs, and is apt to be upset by bad news or crushed by finding out that he is on the road to ruin. From what I have known through my acquaintance with many families for long years, I am ready to say that a husband should always tell his wife about his business and about the affairs of the day."—N. Y. Sun.

## Thought Growth.

I wish that every one of you may try to realize during the new year that you are growing hour by hour, day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year, to be like your thoughts. Whatever you are thinking most about, however secretly, or unknown to those about you, you are becoming in soul. If you are fretting over household matters constantly, and worrying over trifles, your thoughts are like little sharp knives scraping away and reducing your souls to half their original size. If you are concealing selfish and jealous thoughts in your breast, they are forming a green mould over your soul which will cause it to wither and decay. If you are entertaining sad, despondent and gloomy thoughts, they are shutting your soul in a box where it is slowly suffocating.

Perhaps you will tell me that your circumstances and surroundings render it impossible for you to do other than worry, fret, and be despondent. I tell you it is not so. Remember, that if no one in the world was cheerful save those who had nothing to worry over, there would be no cheerful people. The most cheerful and unselfish woman I ever saw was one who had sorrows and worries enough for a dozen lives.

You can change the nature of your thoughts, if you are willing to try. No matter if your heart seems weighed down with trouble, say to yourself the first thing in the morning, and over and over during the day, "God, in the original word, meant good. Good rules—there is nothing for me to fear." No matter how gloomy you feel, say, "I am joyous, cheerful, contented!" Say it over and over, and all at once you will find new thoughts enlarging your soul and changing your life.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

## NORTH STAR, Feb. 13, '91. BRO. GLIDDEN:

I received the sewing machine all right, and, having tested it thoroughly will write as you requested. Am well pleased with it and think I made a fine bargain. It does excellent work. I have showed it to a number of our friends and neighbors. Could I, if I desired, order another one of the same kind at the same figures and receive one equally as good? MRS. S. D. BELDING.

[Yes; order as many as you like at same rates.—Ed.]

Maitre Proal, a distinguished member of the bar of Aix, and a well-known scholar, has entered the lists against Lambrosso and the Anthropological Criminalists, who maintain that women are of a lower moral order, and more nearly resemble the prehistoric types of humanity than men. Maitre Proal's argument is fortified by an immense array of statistics, which show that in France seven-eighths of the criminals are males.

Do you want the BUYERS GUIDE?

Most people say that it is worth \$ to them as a Reference Book, as it enables them to make a comparative estimate of the Value of everything they buy.

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The Old Hymn Book.

Yes, wife, we're going to move once more; The last time, I declare, Until the everlasting shore Sends word it wants us there!

ment is next laid in the bottom to make a level bearing for the track. On this floor four lines of timber are laid, as stringers, a pair on each side, close under where are afterward to come the lines of rails.

An Ascent of Pike's Peak by Railway.

The autumn has been partially spent by your correspondent in the Rocky Mountains, crossing the "Great Divide," penetrating canons, climbing passes, prospecting gorges where walls soared thousands of feet above the beaten trail.

After the needlebeams are laid, a floor of cement is put in between the ends of the timbers and the wall of the tunnel on each side, to keep the track in place, and to make a footwalk for the employes.

The St. Clair tunnel extends from the town of Port Huron, Mich., under the St. Clair river, to Sarnia, Canada.

At the Bottom of the Sea.

At the depth of about 3,500 feet, waves are not felt. The temperature is the same, varying only a trifle, from the ice of the north pole to the burning sun of the equator.

This mid-continent region, as is well known, possesses the finest scenery in the world.

But, after all, the most enjoyable experience was my ride to the top of Pike's Peak over the new so-called "cog wheel railroad," recently opened to tourists.

Completing the St. Clair Tunnel.

The Railway Review says: The stone work of the portal of the St. Clair tunnel at each end is now complete. The east portal face is a wall about forty feet high and nearly one hundred and fifty feet long, built of immense blocks of stone, some of which are over a yard square each.

Inside the tunnel is just now a busy hive of industry. Tram cars are hurrying back and forth from the portal along the temporary tracks with loads of brick, cement, lumber, rails, and other materials, and the long lines of twinkling electric lamps which stretch back from the entrance into the dim vista of the great bore, reveals an army of workmen engaged in an apparent chaos of operations—calking, brick laying, excavating, grouting, track making, cementing, pipe fitting, rail laying—all going on at once.

Waves are very deceptive. To look at them in a storm one would think the water traveled. The water stays in the same place, but the motion goes on. Sometimes in storms these waves are forty feet high and travel fifty miles an hour—more than twice as fast as the swiftest steamship.

Evaporation is a wonderful power in drawing the water from the sea. Every year a layer of the entire sea fourteen feet thick is taken up into the clouds. The winds bear their burdens into the land, and the water comes down in rain upon the fields, to flow back at last through rivers.

The depth of the sea presents an interesting problem. If the Atlantic were lowered for 6,564 feet, the distance from shore to shore would be half as great, or 1,500 miles.

This is the plain on which the great Atlantic cables were laid: The Mediterranean is comparatively shallow. A drying up of 660 feet would leave three different seas, and Africa would be joined with Italy.

The British Channel is more like a pond, which accounts for its choppy waves. It has been found difficult to get the correct soundings of the Atlantic. A midshipman of the navy overcame the difficulty, and a shot weighing thirty pounds carried down the line. A hole is bored through the sinker, through which a rod of iron is passed, moving easily back and forth.

The cars, without being tilted are hung within fifteen inches of the rails, and tire pinion brakes are so arranged that, when necessary, the train can be brought to a full stop in a space of ten inches, either ascending or descending. Each passenger seat is level.

The engine was coupled at the rear and pushed the train—a desirable innovation, relieving one's eyes from the constant annoyance of cinders. Stops were frequent at all slightly points. The round trip, costing five dollars, occupied three hours, and I considered it the best investment of time and money made during years of travel.

A brief chat with Sergeant O'Keefe, in charge of the government signal station on the summit of Pike's Peak, elicited the following facts.

The gentleman having made the rude cabin on the peak his home for five years, and being the only person ever detailed twice to that station, his information may be considered reliable.

The lowest temperature he ever experienced was 57 below zero, the highest 62 above zero. The mean highest winter temperature was 14 below zero (all Fahrenheit).

The winter zephyrs were frequently of sufficient strength to cope with and blow through the whiskers of the most able-bodied man.

In one instance a speed of one hundred and thirty-five miles per hour was indicated, at which point the wind blew the balls out of the socket and the roof from the cabin, followed by a rapid increase in velocity, continuing several hours, during which he estimated that a speed of one hundred and fifty miles per hour was attained.

Bowlders weighing tons are not uncommon near the summit, and are frequently utilized for holding the cabin roof in position, for which purpose they are more effective than chains.

Sergeant O'Keefe pronounces the thrilling narrative of the death of his associate while on duty at the station as pure fiction, no person of the name given having ever been employed there, and no death having ever occurred. He attributes the story to the effervescent but fertile brain of some Eastern scribbler, too far removed from the "seat of war" to invent a reasonable yarn.

W. Y. B.

- Executive Committee. J. J. WOODMAN, Paw Paw, Michigan. LEONARD RHONE, Center Hall, Pennsylvania. X. X. CHARTIERS, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

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

The New Tomato!

From Canada ought to be extra early, and as such it is sent out. The reports of the experimental stations speak highly of it, and numbers testify to its earliness, productiveness, large size, roundness, rich color and freedom from rot. Per package, 15 cts.; five for 60 cts. You will find it only a new seed catalogue, which will be sent free to anybody. J. J. GREGORY & SON, Marblehead, Mass.

- CO-OPERATIVE LITERATURE. History and Objects of Co-operation. 05 What is Co-operation? 02 Some of the Weaknesses of Co-operation. 02 Educational Funds; How to Use Them. 01

G. R. & I. RAIL ROAD.

Feb. 1, 1891.—Central Standard Time.

Table with columns: GOING NORTH, No. 1, No. 3, No. 5, No. 7. Rows: Cincinnati, Richmond, Fort Wayne, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Cadillac, Petoskey, Mackinaw.

Nos. 5 and 6 daily between Grand Rapids and Cincinnati. Nos. 2 and 3 carries through chair cars between Grand Rapids and Cincinnati. No. 3 carries sleeper, Grand Rapids to Mackinaw. No. 6 carries through sleeper, Grand Rapids and Cincinnati.

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Obituaries.

GREENLY.

Died, January 13, 1891, Mary, wife of H. A. Greenly. Again we bring to our altar a tribute of fraternal affection. A sister who was ever ready to obey the precepts of our noble order; energetic in the discharge of every duty; always ready and willing to sacrifice self for the good of others, and leaving with us the example of a well-spent life. Let us ever keep in remembrance her many virtues, drape our charter with the emblems of mourning, and have this tribute recorded on a memorial page of our records, a copy presented to the bereaved family and one transmitted to the grange Visitor for publication.

B. C. Brown, Nora Waterman, Thos. W. Gibbs, Committee.

BRANCH.

Sunday morning, January 11th, 1891, at the age of 82 years, 9 months and three days, at his home where he located in the wilderness fifty-five years ago, in Lawrence township, Van Buren county, Michigan, Brother Eaton Branch passed peacefully to the Beyond. He was a charter member of Lawrence Grange No. 32 P. of H., also a charter member of Van Buren County Pomona Grange P of H., a prominent church member, an earnest advocate of temperance, a good citizen, a kind husband and an indulgent father.

His kindly greeting and genial face will long be remembered. His willing hands were ever ready to add tokens of remembrance to our Hall, and by his death we are reminded that one by one our worthy members are passing away; therefore

Resolved, That in the death of Bro. Branch the Grange has lost a faithful member.

Resolved, That the members of this Grange extend to Sister Branch their united sympathy.

Resolved, That this preamble and these resolutions be spread upon the Grange record and a copy sent to Sister Branch; also, that a copy hereof be furnished the Grange Visitor for publication and that our charter be draped for thirty days.

A. U. Barnes, Mrs. H. Christie, Mrs. J. Bunnell, Committee.

Notices of Meetings.

St. Joseph County Grange No. 4 will hold its next meeting with Centreville Grange, March 5th, 1891, commencing at 10 a. m. in the fifth degree. All fourth degree members are invited for the afternoon session. The discussion of the finance question is made the special order for one o'clock p. m.

Mrs. D. B. Purdy, Sec'y.

The next meeting of Traverse District Pomona Grange No. 17 will be held at Summit City, beginning on Wednesday, March 11th, at 11 o'clock a. m. Following is the program so far as it has been arranged:

Fifth degree session. AFTERNOON. Fourth degree session. Address of welcome, by Wm. Rose. Response, by Worthy Master L. M. Tompkins. Reports from the several subordinate Granges. Report of G. G. Nickerson, delegate to State Grange.

EVENING—7:30 O'CLOCK.

Open meeting, at which persons not members of the order are cordially invited to attend.

Farmers' Organizations, Philip Rose. Recitation, Miss Effie Kingsley.

Essay, Mrs. Wm. Dunn. The Farmer's Garden, F. E. Brown.

Our Agricultural College, E. O. Ladd.

Review of Farmers' Institute, A. P. Gray.

Music for this meeting will be furnished by the Kingsley cornet band.

THURSDAY—9 A. M.

Regular order of business. Resolutions and discussion. E. O. LADD, Lecturer.

"How to Make the Garden Pay."

This is the title of a book of 272 pages, sent out by Wm. Henry Maule, of Philadelphia. Everything is illustrated, even to the faulty plowing of a parallel patch of land. Implements and the best methods of using them, injurious insects and how to exterminate them, how to sow and cover seeds, the newest methods of manipulation of all the requisites for practical gardening—all told in a practical, common sense manner. The book is a valuable one for every man who expects to plant a garden.

Our readers who became interested in "Booming Batavia" will be glad to note the following, which is clipped from the Coldwater Sun:

Batavia Grange is in a wonderfully live condition at present, as an exciting literary contest between the gentlemen and lady members is in progress.

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.

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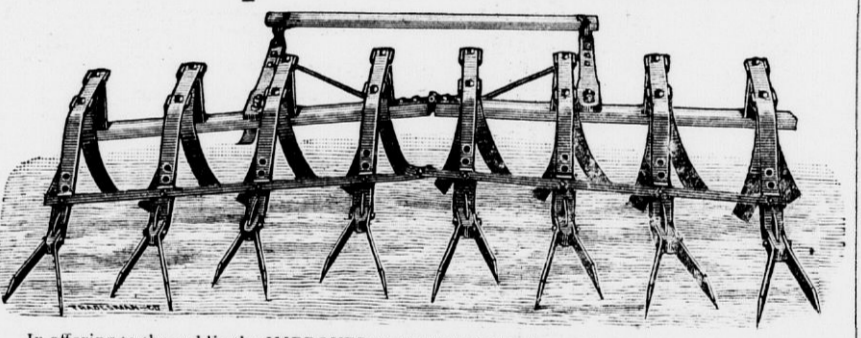
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