

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

Library Agr'l College

"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 Michigan Agricultural College and its President.

No doubt many will question my statement that the primary object of the Michigan Agricultural College is to turn out farmers.

Hardly a farmer fails to recognize the fact that education is the one great accomplishment of life, and, if wise, puts forth every possible effort in order that his children may get it; he sends them first to the district school, and then perhaps to the neighboring village high school; usually he stops there, often with the belief that a college education will ruin his boy for any ordinary usefulness, and will make a lazy, conceited nothing out of his once greatest idol.

If he does send him to college he of course wants to send him to the best one, but will be more or less guided by the boy's inclinations.

If his boy expresses a desire to become a farmer, then after more or less hesitation he sends him to the Agricultural College, very much doubting in his own mind whether it will make any better farmer of him, or whether he will not entirely abandon his idea of being a farmer.

Suppose he does not decide to be a farmer after being at the college a year or two, then it seems to me if he makes respectable progress in some other line of work, the parents should be satisfied.

Farmers as a class are too liable to blame the colleges, and especially the agricultural colleges, for not making farmers out of their boys.

Too much should not be expected from a four years' course in college. It takes time for a boy to develop, and it sometimes seems a long and slow progress from boyhood to manhood, from air castles to plow handles.

Perhaps the boy would have abandoned his idea of farming if he had not gone to college at a time when it would be of great moment to his parents. I have known such to be the case; I have also known it to be true that many boys have made utter failure of farming without ever having seen the inside or outside of an agricultural college.

A college, as it appears to me, is a place where an opportunity is offered for the development of man's inert ability; if a boy is inclined to be wild, shiftless and lazy, send him to college and he will learn how to be more tough, more shiftless and more lazy, in short, he will come out the embodiment of good-for-nothingness.

On the other hand, if a boy is bright, his intellect keen and his ambition sober; if a boy who expects hard work and close application to duty; his experience in college will tend to greatly improve his mind, strengthen his intellect and broaden his views to such an extent that his early ambitions will lie easily accessible at his feet.

In short, the Agricultural College or any other college is not a reform school, and what a boy is under home influences he may be expected to be at college.

The difficulty of securing a proper corps of instructors has been a great hindrance to the efficiency of agricultural colleges.

Men have been found who were practically perfect as regards the detail work of farm life, but have been sadly lacking in their ability to communicate their plans and ideas to others, and vice versa.

The Michigan Agricultural College has, in late years, been very successful in securing men who have the combined ability, and its efficiency has been greatly accelerated by the influence of such men, the subject of our sketch being a no mean example.

President Clute is of Dutch descent, his father and mother being direct descendants of the Dutch settlers of Saratoga county, New York.

He was born March 11, 1837, in Bethlehem, Albany county, New York, just south of the city of Albany on the Hudson river.

His time was divided between farm and school work until after the death of his mother, which occurred when Oscar was a lad of thirteen years.

At this time the family became separated and he went to the village of Valatie, Columbia county, to attend school, paying his way as he went; after two years of labor there he went to Binghamton to attend school at what was known as the Oak Street school, afterward teaching what was then known as the Franklin Street school.

His industry and close application to his studies were soon appreciated and he was offered the principalship of the much larger school on Oak street where he himself had been a student.

We thus see it was at the early age of seventeen years that he began a line of work which was calculated to better prepare him for future usefulness.

Two years were spent in this capacity, when, feeling the need of better preparation, and desiring to indulge his natural taste for study, he decided to enter the Susquehanna Seminary as both student and teacher.

The need of money again led to his teaching the following year at Chenango Forks. While there his home was with Mr. and Mrs. James H. Porter whose friendship at that time and in intervening years has been most cordial and helpful.

In 1857, he came to Ionia, where for a year and a half he conducted a private school.

Among his students was his brother, Lemuel Clute, who had previous to this time been but slightly interested in school

work, but with his brother's help he made rapid progress, and became interested to such an extent that he entered the Agricultural College which had opened somewhat more than a year previous.

In September of the same year, 1859, Oscar visited his brother and was so pleased that he resolved to enter. Accordingly, he applied and was admitted to the Freshman class in the last month of its year.

The two brothers continued their work in college until the end of the sophomore year, when Lemuel began the study of law in Ionia, where he still resides. He has become well known throughout the state as a lawyer and temperance advocate.

Mr. Oscar Clute's vacations were spent in teaching public schools in different parts of the state.

He graduated in the fall of 1862, the class numbering five, and comprising besides our subject, C. A. Jewell, a successful farmer of Hudson, Mich.; F. J.

first year of his charge he returned to Michigan and to the Agricultural College to marry Miss Mary Merrylees, a sister of Mrs. President Abbott.

He remained in Vineland six years; in Newark, N. J. two years; in Keokuk, Iowa, four years; in Iowa City, Iowa, eight years, and in Pomona, Cal., one year, at which latter place he was successful in establishing a large and active society during his short stay, which he left with no little reluctance to act as president of our college.

While in the ministry he found much recreation in the pursuit of agriculture.

As gardener, grower of small fruits, florist, president or secretary of farmers' clubs, bee keeper, editor of agricultural journals and worker in county and state fairs he found relief from study and was afforded an opportunity for using much of the practical and scientific knowledge gained at the college.

He wrote much for the press, his contributions appearing in the religious, agricultural and educational journals of the day. His articles contained a worth and practicality seldom found.

While at Keokuk he accepted as a pastime, but so judiciously were his bees cared for that they soon multiplied into a large and profitable apiary.

His largest crop of honey in one year was 17,000 pounds. Such results are always the substantial part of pleasure.

Mr. Clute's entire life has been a fitting preparation for his present position. No one could have altered his life work in such a manner as to have bettered his development. He is thoroughly acquainted with the history, and is in hearty sympathy

with the methods and special features employed in every department of this college. He is among us with his natural adaptability and all that faithful study and earnest enthusiasm can offer. Farmers may rest assured that he is doing, and will continue to do everything that is within his jurisdiction in the interest of the farmers of Michigan.

The past college year has been one of marked advancement, there being more students enrolled than ever before in its history, and there are more the present term than at any previous time at this season of the year. General harmony exists between faculty and students.

If President Clute's connection with the college thus far is any criterion of its future, it bespeaks for it its merited popularity and success. HERBERT W. MUMFORD, Moscow, Mich.

Some of the herbs in Hall's Hair Renewer, that wonderful preparation for restoring the color and thickening the growth of the hair, grow plentifully in New England.

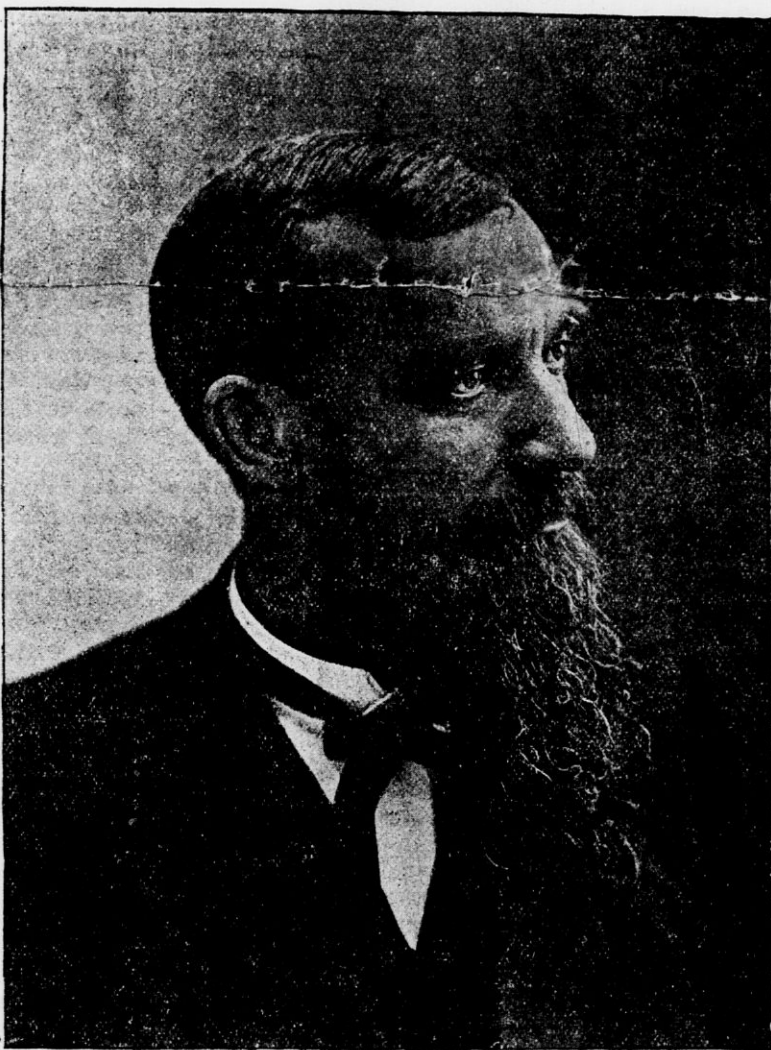
### Merinos as Muttons.

Galen Wilson contributed the following in a recent issue of the National Stockman: An old flockmaster whom I have known many years as a grower and dealer in sheep, who has always kept them and made more or less money out of them, came a great distance last week to see me to learn where he could purchase a bunch of Dickinson or Black-top Merinos. Knowing that for recent years he had been wedded to the Shropshire and Southdown breeds, my astonishment at his change of base was complete. Inquiring the reason, he replied by saying: "Years ago when I kept Merinos they did well for me; but I find the frequent rains are too much for open, coarse-wooled sheep, and they drop off (die) one by one quite too frequently for much profit, and I shall change." He is a good feeder, has sufficient shelter and devotes much attention to his flocks, but there are times of heavy, cold rains setting in when he is perhaps at one side of his large farm and the sheep at the other, or he may be away from home and the hired men not attentive, and the animals in consequence do not get housed during storms as they should.

The coarse wools are not "rustlers" like Merinos and cannot withstand so much inclement weather. It is poor policy to endeavor to keep Merinos in such a subject them to neglect and abuse; but the fact must not be ignored that the Merinos were made hardy over two thousand years ago. And having inherited the quality of hardiness from this long line of breeding it is so fixed in this breed that many generations of men will pass away ere care, attention or pampering can breed it out of them entirely. Flockmasters, then, can avail themselves of the advantages to be gained from this feature of the animals without bearing the responsibility of having helped to make them so.

The English breeds have been produced and perpetuated in an entirely different manner. Care, shelter, grain, roots, all of the best feed in its season, have been bestowed upon them, and their natures have come to require such. Without these they cannot do their best, nor so well as the Merinos. It is true that the English breeds will do as well in America as in the mother country, if they have the same care, but conditions here rarely meet the requirements.

Paw Paw Grange has been having a series of entertainments by the different sections into which the membership is divided, that have proved very attractive. Something novel and unique is presented every Friday evening after recess, the nature of which is a secret to all except the section which is responsible for the program. The floor of the hall and ante rooms have been recently carpeted, the walls decorated and other improvements made to the interior that add to the convenience of the hall. Initiations are conducted in a manner to add a charm to the ceremony, which seems short in comparison with the infliction frequently given candidates. Paw Paw Grange is open for inspection to members of the order on every Friday evening



OSCAR CLUTE.

Hodgman, an influential surveyor, and author of an able work on land surveying; E. M. Preston, of California, prominent as a statesman and philanthropist, and Prof. A. J. Cook, whose work in Entomology, and long connection with the Agricultural College, have made him widely known.

The spring following his graduation he accepted the position of instructor in mathematics, and after two years was made full professor, which position he held until 1866, when he resigned to enter the Meadville Theological School of Pennsylvania.

As an instructor Prof. Clute held the respect and good will of the students, not only in the class room, but while engaged in outdoor sports, in which he took a lively interest.

Of the sciences Mr. Clute had a preference for botany and entomology.

After a year at the theological school he accepted a pastorate in Vineland, N. J., and during the



## Pay as You Go.

There's a trite little saying, a maxim of old,  
And to learn it mankind is exceedingly slow;  
Yet it turns all our coppers to silver and gold—  
So think well about it—'tis pay as you go.

Would you sport a fine coat, or a carriage and pair,  
Don't buy it on credit, nor steal it—go slow;  
They will come in good time if you only beware  
Of installments and store books, and pay as you go.

The world's not unfair to the poor, but I think  
They're unfair to themselves and their children;  
they know  
When their pennies go out for cigars and for drink  
That for these there's no trust—they must pay as they go.

There's a man lives up town, worth a million, I guess,  
In a mansion, with servants, and horses, and show;  
If you ask him the secret of all his success,  
He'll answer you quickly: "I pay as I go."

Are you pushed by the grocer, or back in your rents?  
Is your wife looking shabby, your daughter also?  
Just balance your income and bills of expense,  
And begin the next quarter to pay as you go.

When you own your own home and have funds in the bank,  
When your fuel's laid in and the winter winds blow,  
Then be kind to the poor—'tis the best way to thank  
The rhymers who taught you to pay as you go.

—J. R. Parke in Philadelphia Times.

## Sheep Husbandry and the Future Sheep Market.

Read Before Lawrence Grange March 4, by H. Place.

The first question to be answered is, Does it pay to keep sheep? My answer is most emphatically, Yes. The next question is, What kind? I will leave that answer to the man who keeps the sheep; but there is profit in all the different breeds if the farmer will only do his part. The first thing to find out is what you want to do with the sheep; raise for wool or for mutton, and select accordingly, then give them your personal attention. You can hardly delegate this attention to anyone else, but you must look after them yourself, and strive to become proficient in their care and management. On no other domestic animal is the hazard by death so small. If it dies at birth it has consumed nothing; if it lives to be sheared once it brings its owner into debt to it. We find embodied in this statement a fact which must be added; quickly paying dividends to their owners in the fleece they bear. In order to compare the profits of sheep raising with some other kinds of stock, I have selected the horse. A good, fair, average colt at four years old would sell for one hundred dollars, and he has lived 1,460 days; been pastured in summer and fed in winter for a little less than seven cents per day. One good sheep ought to shear eight pounds of wool, at twenty-five cents per pound, which would be two dollars and raise a good lamb that would sell for four dollars, which would make a profit of six dollars per year, or less than one-half cent per day; now you can keep fifteen sheep as cheap as you can the colt, and the sheep will pay ninety dollars per year, or \$360 by the time the colt is four years old. I have not calculated to use extravagant prices in either case for I have known some lambs to be sold for considerable more than four dollars per head this year. It would be well to remember that the pasture of sheep a great deal of the time, is on such land as other stock would not do well upon; such as brush and briar patches, and summer fallow, eating noxious weeds which adds largely to the profits. Without a fertile soil there can be no successful or profitable farming, and plenty of sheep is one of the most successful methods of keeping the farm fertile. Just what the expense of keeping a sheep is I do not know, but from the best authority I can find it is estimated three acres of pasture and meadow land for ten sheep, or one hundred and thirty-three sheep to forty acres.

Now if a man has got a farm of eighty acres, mortgaged for one-half it is worth, just let him live off from one-fourth and put sheep on the other forty and see if he cannot pay off the mortgage in three or four years, and his land will not be all worn out raising crops he cannot sell. Sheep breeding is like the old maxim, "Experience is a dear school but fools will learn in no other," or at least this has been my experience. The first sheep I ever owned was a nice flock of merino ewes; I took good care of them

through the winter, but one day in the spring I turned them out and went to town. There came up a cold storm and when I got home over half the lambs lay dead in the field. Another year the hogs broke in and took the choice of the flock, and after many years of sad disappointment I learned that vigilance was one secret of success. Experience teaches that no sheep should be kept past the year it is four years old, neither for breeding nor fattening. It pays well until that time, when it is in its prime and should be disposed of for mutton, always keeping the choice of the flock to replace those sold out. Another thing I would like to impress on the minds of new beginners in sheep raising; no matter what breed you select, always breed pure for breeding purposes. You may cross with some other breed for fattening, but by the time you cross two or three times you have got a sheep, but no breed. The fattening of sheep requires a great deal of study and care. The easiest and most profitable time to feed a lamb is when it is following its mother; commence feeding a little grain, oats and bran, and begin by putting a little in its mouth; it soon learns to eat, then feed it all it will eat. I have raised lambs this way that gained from twenty to twenty-five pounds per month; this kind of lambs at sixty or seventy pounds weight bring the highest price of any mutton sold. I see by a report of a fat stock show in England, that the gold medal was awarded to three Hampshire-down wether lambs, nine months and two weeks old, that weighed 642 pounds or 214 pounds each. It is also stated that they attain a weight of eighty to one hundred pounds of mutton at five months old. The next best time to fatten is the next fall and winter. Commence giving a small ration of grain, while on grass, and get all the growth possible to attain, and they will go into winter without much shrinkage. I feed in the fore part of winter one-half pound of corn to each

This winter I have weighed all the grain fed, and weighed the lambs every two weeks. I fed one-half pound per day until February first. My lambs gained nearly five pounds each every two weeks; February first I commenced giving one pound each and in two weeks they had not gained a pound on the whole lot, and some individual lambs had actually shrunk one pound. I then put them back on one-half pound of corn and fed two weeks and they gained nearly five pounds each on the whole lot. I am now feeding twenty for an experiment, on fourteen pounds of corn, three pounds of oats and three pounds of bran. My idea is that lambs can be fed more corn than they will do well upon, or in other words, be fed too much corn to fatten fast. I feed straw, corn fodder, and a very little hay. If a lamb can be brought, by care, to maturity for the market at twelve or fourteen months, instead of thirty months, the result is simply equal to forty per cent. profit; and feed is the agent by which this profit is secured, of course made available by proper care in selecting the breeding stock. The best sheep for mutton purposes are undoubtedly the Hampshire-down, Shropshire, Lincolnshire, and Southdown, yet my experience is the Merino will take on meat faster than any of the other breeds, but don't sell as well, nor attain as great weights. It has always been supposed that a hog would take on more meat to the amount of feed than any other domestic animal, but by an experiment at the Wisconsin Experimental Station, in three tests each, it was decided that lambs would take on one hundred pounds of meat, with less feed, than either shoats or steers. Food for one hundred pounds gain with lambs: 800 pounds sweet milk, 26 pounds oats, and 60 pounds green food; food required for one hundred pounds gain with pigs: 654 pounds of sweet milk, 198 pounds corn meal and shorts. With experiments recently made at the Canadian Agricultural Station demonstrates that sheep can be kept for profit and count every

item of cost, including shepherd's care, use of their mothers, feed, shelter and interest on capital until the sheep were over one year old.

A half-blood Southdown cost six dollars, sheared six pounds of wool worth two dollars and forty cents, weighed 147 pounds live weight, and sold for six and one-half cents per pound, or ten dollars and twenty cents, which shows a profit of six dollars and sixty cents. A half-blood Shropshire cost seven dollars, sheared nine pounds wool worth three dollars and forty cents, weight 160 pounds, its net profit for mutton and wool being six dollars and thirty-two cents. A Native cost three dollars, sheared five pounds wool, weight 150 pounds, net profit three dollars and seventeen cents.

It will be seen that there is profit in sheep when well handled. Now the future prospect for sheep raising is very gratifying indeed, or at least it seems so to me. The consumption of mutton is constantly increasing, from the fact that they are not liable to disease such as cholera in hogs and pleuro pneumonia in cattle, and again their flesh is not so liable to get bruised in transportation as other stock; consequently when mutton is bought it is better meat and commands a higher price. Now reports show a decrease in the number of sheep in the United States from 1884 to 1889 of 9,000,000, with a decrease in wool for the same period, of 54,000,000 pounds, and the 1890 clip is reported nearly 8,000,000 pounds short. So the decrease is still going on. Mutton is an article of consumption that we can compete with the whole world in our own markets, but wool is different. The cost of transportation is less and time is not taken into consideration, and so long as our farmers are assessed at anything like present value; and so long as there are great semidesert regions like the whole of the Rocky mountain sections of this country and portions of South America and Australia, we must expect sharp

wool, but these countries cannot effect our mutton markets. In 1880 there was in the United States 40,500,000 sheep; in 1884, 50,500,000, an increase of 10,000,000, but since 1884 the decrease has been so great that there are not as many sheep reported now as in 1880. It will readily be seen that it will take some time to over stock the market with sheep; but while our sheep have been decreasing, other countries have been increasing. Australia was reported on March 1, 1890, as having 105,000,000 sheep, with an increase in wool of 26,091,487 pounds over last year's clip. New South Wales is reported as having an increase of 3,603,297 sheep more than last year.

An all wise Providence has ordained that no man shall know everything about business, but I think I see in the near future a new era for the farmer, when he shall labor less, but with more profit; when the tasks of his family shall be easier and pleasanter. Through the influence of some of the noble minded, progressive citizens we have the opportunity of coming together and discussing our own interests and laboring for our social, moral, and intellectual benefit.

## Raising Turnips for Stock.

Read by Thos. G. Adams at Watson Grange Hall, March 3d.

Now the question is asked, How can you grow stock at a profit? I say, by raising root crops instead of corn and other grain. Well what kinds of roots? Any kind you choose. While your committee has assigned the turnip as my subject, I will not ignore the raising of other root crops for stock such as mangel-wurzel, sugar beet and carrot, however, I can speak more intelligently on turnips, as I have grown them several years and it was not until I was forced to learn their value as a stock food that I became converted to urge their cultivation.

My text is, "The most bread and the least sweat." How are we to bring about this result? Well, I don't expect my brother farmers that are here to-day will go out into their fields next spring and sow every available acre of land to turnips.

They all know better than that, but I have demonstrated to a certainty that two acres of ruta bagas will produce more feed for swine and other stock than eleven acres of corn. Now let us count the cost. It takes as long to plow and drag an acre of corn ground as it does for turnips, and nearly as much cultivating; in short here is my method. Take good rich soil, say well-tilled the year before, and plow it deep as early as you do your corn ground; continue to harrow as often as once or twice a week until the 20th of June, when the ground should be thoroughly cultivated; then run over the ground with a crusher and make the surface as smooth as possible before marking.

I mark two feet and eight inches apart usually with a hand marker, and sow with a hand drill about one pound of seed to the acre. In a few days, when the young plants come up, take a common hoe and thin out; strike two blows of the hoe and leave a space, one plant every foot or so. Cultivate, don't forget to cultivate, and if the ground is weedy you may find it necessary to hoe the plants; but if cultivating is kept up until the leaves cover the ground, you need not fear but that you will be well-paid for your labor.

Now you can hang up your hoe until late in autumn when Jack Frost gets in his work. Wait till the last day in the afternoon, and let the roots develop all they will, then take a hoe and cut the tops off close to the ground, pulling the tops of two rows into one, then take a potato or manure hook, and strike in under the roots and winrow them in the clear space, two rows together, then with a team and wagon gather them up and cart them off where pits have been prepared for them with a team and plow, throwing out a dead furrow.

This pit should not be more than one foot deep and about two feet in width, rounding up the pit about two feet in diameter; cover well with straw and a covering of coarse litter, and then cover with coarse litter from the barnyard. A man can harvest over one hundred bushels per acre last season, and consider them worth as much as corn for all kinds of stock feeding; especially for swine. I fed fifty head of hogs on ruta bagas for two or three months, in the early part of winter, with good results, feeding them raw, cut up with a shovel. All stock seem to eat them with a relish, especially milk cows. If fed immediately after milking they will not flavor the milk or butter.

Much is said about over production being the cause of the depression among farmers, all of which I do not believe. On the contrary I do believe the more every farmer can grow on his farm, the better for all concerned. If two acres of root crop will produce as much milk, butter and flesh on our live stock as we have been doing with ten acres of corn, it strikes me that this is one way we farmers may help ourselves a little. I know from my own experience that with over seventy head of swine on hand when winter set in, and only about five hundred bushels of corn and one thousand bushels of roots, I have pulled through thus far although not at a profit perhaps, owing to the low price of pork; but I was found in this condition and had to scramble along as best I could. I urge my brother farmers, by all means plant some kind of a root crop next spring.

## Use Heavy Seed Oats.

Now that the season for sowing oats is again at hand, it may not be out of place to remind our farmers that it will pay them best to use only heavy selected seed oats.

In Bulletin No. 13 of this Station, the results of experiments with light and heavy oats are given. They teach a lesson which every oat grower should bear in mind. The oats were graded by a fanning mill, the lightest weighing 19 lbs., the heaviest 32 lbs., and the common ungraded oats, as they came from the thresher, 28 lbs. to the struck bushel. These three

grades were sown experimentally on an equal number of plats, and gave the following yields per acre:

Light seed, 21.6 bushels.  
Ungraded seed, 24 bushels.  
Heavy seed, 30 bushels.

Here is an increase from the heavy seed of six bushels per acre more than was yielded by the common ungraded oats. This reveals a loss which comes home to nearly every farmer in the state, for I fear that few, if any, grade their seed oats and sow only the heaviest. The general practice is to sow the oats as they come from the thresher. How much have you lost by this practice in the past? Will you continue to permit that loss in the future?

On a fifty-acre field the loss would be 300 bushels, if this experiment is a true representation of the facts, and on this basis the oat crop of Kansas for 1889, as reported by the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, could have been increased by fully eight and one-quarter million bushels, which at the present price would be worth \$3,300,000. Here, then, is a point where we can improve our profits without making outlays of any kind; without waste, as the lighter grades can be used for feed. All it requires is a careful grading of the seed. Try it; it will surely pay.—Prof. C. C. Georgeson.

## Spring Seeding.

All kinds of grass and clover seed can be sown in the spring. In localities where the ground thaws and freezes, throwing out small plants, spring seeding is often preferable to fall. It is advisable to get the seeding done early and especially in localities subject to drouth during the summer. The best plan is to make all of the necessary arrangements so that at the first opportunity in the spring the grass can be sown. Orchard grass is one of the best grasses to grow with clover for several reasons. One is that it is coarser and is not so readily smothered out as some of the other grasses. It ripens at the same time as red clover, and can be cut at the same time and the two combined. If cut at the right stage it makes splendid feed for stock during the winter, or if needed they make a good soiling crop to be used during the latter part of spring or early summer. Will grow and mature somewhat earlier than other varieties usually sown for meadow. Timothy and red top are both good grasses for hay and ripen after these, but if sown for hay it will usually be best to sow alone. Many consider that when there is a light fall of snow is a good time to sow the seed. When there is a light freeze and the soil stands open like a honey comb is a splendid time for sowing. One advantage with the broadcast seeders is that with them when a favorable opportunity occurs the work can be done very rapidly, and when there is a considerable acreage to seed this is quite an item. There is no economy in stinting the seed, whether sown for pasture or meadow. It is very important to secure a good stand and this can only be done by using plenty of seed. Blue grass for the pasture, lawn grass in the yards, or mixed pasture grasses can all be sown in the spring to a good advantage if care is taken to sow early.—N. J. S. in Detroit Free Press.

No more completely illustrated copy of the Cosmopolitan has ever gone out than that for April. Miss Elizabeth Bisland, always a bright and attractive writer, is fairly fascinating in her description of dancing, the eldest of the arts, and the illustrations charmingly interpret the article itself. The executive mansion, the "White House," always an object of interest to the people of the United States, and one of the first points to be visited by those who go to Washington, is described by Mr. George Brantham Bain, the Washington correspondent, while the interior is illustrated with many views taken specially for The Cosmopolitan by permission of the President.



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### Acrostic on Patrons of Husbandry.

Political party is not part of his creed,  
A good education is more fully his need;  
To know what to do, and to do with his might,  
Regardless of wrong, ever guarding the right,  
Onward ever his motto, upward ever his aim,  
Never mingling with aught that will lead him to  
shame.  
One thing he teaches us all on his sod,  
Faith is the wisdom and goodness of God.  
Hope nurtured and granted, eternally blest,  
Upspringeth forever in his manly breast.  
Sweet charity too, he doth freely dispense  
By actions and words, in deeds and in penance:  
A true friend in joy, or in sorrow is he  
Noted throughout for his fidelity.  
Doing life's work as if well understood,  
Reaping or sowing, as honest men should,  
Youthful or aged, a man that is good.

### A Pleasant Letter on Various Topics.

ED. VISITOR: I send you for publication in the VISITOR the essay of Bro. Adams. He began a poor boy. He is a good example of the way the Grange is developing men and women. There can't be too much said about the Grange in this respect; and it is bringing out the children, too. Last week at the council meeting we had admirable singing and recitations by girls and boys from five to thirteen years of age. The Grange is doing better than the schools in this respect. In times past it was hard to get the boys to declaim and the girls to recite. Now they are ambitious to do these things in public. The time is coming when it will be creditable to a farmer not to belong to some industrial association.

THE VISITOR has had some things about out-door work for health. Let me give you some of my experience. My health failed partially in my youth and left me with general nervous debility. I was educated for a profession, but I went on to my father's farm, and the most of the time since I have spent in some out-door business. As the result, I have kept my general health good and prolonged my life to the age of seventy. Permanent indoor business would probably have laid me in the grave long ago. I have experienced that there is great medicinal power in open air work. It is all that is wanted to build up many a half-broken down man. I wish you would advise farmers to bring up their daughters to work out of doors. It would give us strong-bodied, healthy, energetic women, and the mothers of a vigorous race. Work in the pure air of heaven is the absolutely necessary thing to make healthy, forceful men and women, and give us "paradise restored." I think that the ambition to be athletes will by and by cause many men to want to be farmers. The development that the industrial associations are making among the working classes will make farming more popular with educated men. The farm is the best place in the world for cultured men—and women, too, to do thinking in, and they are going to like it for this reason, more and more. I think one of the greatest troubles with farmers is, that they don't do thinking enough. For want of it their hands don't accomplish so much, their hands don't accumulate so fast, and labor isn't so pleasant as it might be. That is good counsel in our ritual: "Add dignity to labor," and one way to do so is by giving thought to it. Our schools are improving, but they are a long way from the time when all the teachers, or a majority of them, will train the boys and girls to be vigorous, independent thinkers. This is the beginning and the end of education. The cramming notion is mostly prevalent yet. What is the use in putting girls and boys to committing so much to memory as is done in the schools? A large part of it they can never make any use of, and a large part they will forget. Why isn't it better to train them to commit perfectly to memory the essential things, and to understand perfectly everything they learn—to analyze and reason well? Let them have a large range of reading and study, but don't make them burden their memories with

a great load of facts. Now I don't ask you to print or thank me for my ideas—but pardon for the intrusion on a stranger.  
G. A. MORGAN.  
Kellogg, Mich.

### A Lively Time at Grange No. 275.

CLARKSTON, March 11.—For a change in our literary exercises we concluded to have an old-fashioned debate. The Worthy Lecturer gave out the following question: Resolved, That organization has a tendency to divide rather than unite society, which met with general approval. Sisters Foster and Taylor being chosen as chief disputants, proceeded to choose about a dozen each of the best speakers present. Having two weeks to post up we met last Saturday night fully equipped for work, each side appearing fully confident of an easy victory. After preliminaries about eight o'clock the affirmative opened fire, which was readily responded to. The firing was brisk and well directed for about four hours, it being difficult to guess which side would gain the victory. The affirmative used some very heavy artillery, but the negative stood firm under the galling fire and seemed to be equal to the emergency, although flanked several times by the affirmative. At twelve o'clock the smoke cleared away and the chairman announced in a clear voice the verdict in favor of the negative.  
W. L.

### The Government Loaning Money.

With many farmers this seems to be a pet scheme. For my part I have no faith in it. I think it would result in disaster. Supposing congress should pass an act authorizing the government to loan money to the people. Now who are the people? Why all classes, not farmers alone, but every citizen that could give sufficient security would want to borrow money from Uncle Sam, because it is cheap; Tom to pay his debts, Dick to have a good time, and Harry to speculate or go in some other risky business. There would be no end to the demand, and Uncle Sam would have to keep his mill going all the time to supply the demand, and paper money would be as plenty as leaves in a forest, depreciating and unsettle all values and deranging all business. Money ought to be money, a standard of value and a means for exchange. Any measure that causes a violent change in money would be hurtful to the best interests of the people. It belongs to the government to issue money; it belongs to the citizen, the people, to earn the money by honest labor or service.—"Citizen," in Stockman and Farmer.

ALLEGAN, March 13.—ED. VISITOR: The session of Allegan County Council, held at Watson March 3, was too pleasant and profitable a meeting to let pass without a little notice from me, which you will please give a little space for in your paper. The weather was quite unfavorable, being both cold and stormy, but notwithstanding about 150 were in attendance, and a very enjoyable time we had. The song and recitations from the very young folks were much enjoyed, and the music of the choir and orchestra won much praise and helped to lighten the heavier essays and discussions.

The address of welcome by Homer Leggett was a fine production, and was delivered extempore. He is quite young, but the Grange has in him a fine workman and helper. The response by Bro. Stockwell was well received; in fact everything was first-class, and the program nicely responded to. Bro. A. T. Stark's paper was quite well received, and an invitation extended to him to allow it to be published in the VISITOR, to which he reluctantly consented.

The dinner was—well, ask Arthur or Mart if it was not a grand success.

Thanks were duly returned to Watson Grange for its generous hospitality.

The next meeting will be held with Trowbridge Grange the first Tuesday in June. Do not forget day and date or somebody may be sorry for the good time missed.  
N. A. DIBBLE Lecturer.

SAND BEACH, Mich., March 9. ED. VISITOR: The following resolutions were passed at the meeting, March 4th, in Bad Axe, of the Huron County Farmers' and Labor Union:

1. Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all, special privileges to none, we petition state senators and representatives and demand a general revision of our present tax laws, that all property shall bear its just and equal proportion of taxation.
2. A state inspection of grain, test to be not less than one half bushel.
3. That all delinquent tax be left with the county treasurer and not returned to the auditor general as heretofore, and sold as soon as possible by said county treasurer.
4. Uniform text books for our schools printed by the state and furnished to all the schools within the state at actual cost.
5. That the superintendent of schools and county drain commissioner be elected by vote the same as other county officers.
6. That the sale of adulterated food be prohibited.
7. We are not in favor of any law making our district schools graded. Next regular meeting at Bad Axe the first Wednesday in June.  
Fraternally,  
W. D. BURHANS.

SUPERIOR GRANGE No. 68.—ED. VISITOR: Our Grange is thriving finely and in good working order. We started in at the beginning of the year with 112 members, all in good standing, with the addition of one new member since. We have met every two weeks for the past four months, and are furnished with a good program every evening, consisting of essays, recitations, select reading and declamations, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. Then some interesting subject is discussed each evening, from which much benefit is derived. We think the Grange a great educator, especially for the young, and we have many young people in our Grange who take a very active part in all our exercises, and display much talent for their years. We have organized a young people's choir, and they take much interest in furnishing us with music. The GRANGE VISITOR is largely patronized also. We have taken it in our family during the past four years and like it very much.  
Mrs. C. S. SAYLES, Sec'y.

### In Darkest Africa.

They did not have a "Horse Book" or a "Pioneer Buggy"; if they had the Rear Column would not have been in disgrace. Send 10 cents, silver or stamps, and learn how to cure the Horse, and where to buy the Buggy. Pioneer Buggy Company, Columbus, Ohio.

BATAVIA, March 16.—ED. VISITOR: Batavia Grange No. 95 has been holding a contest, the ladies against the gentlemen, three nights on a side. The count stood gentlemen 4155, ladies 3385; with eight new members and four subscribers to GRANGE VISITOR.  
I. A. MARTIN, Sec'y.

Dogs kill sheep. Sheep are more valuable than dogs, therefore we kill the dogs.

Saloons kill men. Men are more valuable than saloons, therefore we kill—but hold, we don't do it. Why not?—Western Plowman.

Yes, there are good dogs, just as there are good Indians, but their appropriate abiding place is in the happy land of Canine.

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EACH MACHINE IS FURNISHED WITH THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS:

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The driving wheel on this machine is admitted to be the simplest, easiest running and most convenient of any. The machine is self-threading, made of the best material, with the wearing parts hardened, and is finished in a superior style. It has veneered cover, drop-leaf table, 4 end drawers, and is warranted to last for 5 years. "Any machine not satisfactory to a subscriber, we will allow returned and will refund the money."

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GRANGE VISITOR, Paw Paw, Mich.

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We would say that

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OF KALAMAZOO,

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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.
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H. J. EDGELL,  
SOUTH HAVEN, MICH.

## 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 | " "     | 1.90    |
| 3 "      | " "     | 2.70    |
| 4 "      | " "     | 3.40    |
| 5 "      | " "     | 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.

## Glubbing List with The Visitor.

|                             | Both Papers |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Free Press.....      | \$1.00      |
| Detroit Weekly Tribune..... | 1.25        |
| Cosmopolitan Magazine.....  | 2.40        |
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| Demorest's.....             | 2.05        |
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PRICE WITH THE VISITOR \$25.00.

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TO THE GRANGE SENDING IN THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS AT THE FULL PRICE OF 50 CENTS EACH.

To stimulate to a little extra effort, we have decided to offer this elegant machine to the Grange within the State that shall send during the present month the largest number of yearly subscriptions. This offer is to the Grange instead of to individuals, but if a Grange prefers to give it into the hands of one person, they can do so. Who will be the banner Grange in this effort? The machine is the finest made by the Chicago Sewing Machine Co. It can be had in either walnut, red or antique oak, and is as good a machine as is sold by agents for \$50.00. A circular letter has been sent to each Master of a Grange in the State, asking them to appoint an agent to canvass for the VISITOR. This offer will make every individual member interested to get every name possible to secure the machine.

Send the names in as fast as received and say—Machine Contest, Grange No. \_\_\_\_\_

Public Aid to Organizations.

The question is being considered whether it is good policy for the state of Michigan to appropriate money for the purpose of entertaining the members of a national organization whenever its annual meeting shall be appointed within its borders. Members of the Grand Army are asking that \$50,000 be appropriated by the state for such a purpose. The Presbyterian General Assembly will also meet in Detroit the coming summer, with delegations of prominent divines and laymen from all points of the Union and from foreign lands. There are likely to be other national organization meetings within the limits of the state, which might with equal propriety ask for money to enable them to entertain the strangers within their gates. The state of California did indeed appropriate \$10,000 toward the entertainment of the National Grange in Sacramento in 1889; but the year before, Lansing and the members of the Order in the state, managed to make the delegations from abroad feel quite at home here during their stay, and they left with quite as good an opinion of the state as though they had been banqueted, marched under arches and bunting and treated to a "sound of revelry by night."

It may be argued that a spirit of loyalty to the nation's defenders ought to inspire the state with generous feelings, and that \$50,000 is the proper figure to measure this appreciation. The national government has already provided the money consideration for soldiers through the pensions, which are being constantly increased, so that there is scarcely a soldier living, but is bountifully provided for by this provision of government.

The sum asked for the National Encampment at Detroit would reflect very little honor upon the state at large, but would rather

reflect the slick methods of Detroit workers for the wherewithal to fix up for their show. The state has its own military service to provide for, into which a good deal of "horse play" is projected, quite sufficient, ordinary people would think, for the honor of the service. If any other "Encampment" or "Session" or "Assembly" were asking for an appropriation in any city in the interior of the state, Detroit papers would be objecting, as the Visitor is now objecting, and the majority of people would rate their reasoning as sound.

The World's Fair.

Every resident of Michigan is interested in the success of this great enterprise, and is doubtless determining to be one of the many millions who will be present at some time during its continuance. Every one also is anxious that our state shall be fittingly recognized and appear as finely decorated and domiciled as any of the sisterhood of states. To do so will require money, and the state fortunately has at its disposal in the treasury of the general government a fund from which it can appropriate such an amount as will make a creditable showing in the great exhibition. Michigan is out of debt and can afford extravagance on occasion. It has a credit of nearly half a million dollars in Uncle Sam's bank, and if it should use half of it to "show off" before the great congregation of nations, it could be excused for the lavish expenditure. Everybody who goes will buy a new suit of clothes before they start, and Michigan ought to "dress up" as well as the rest and be there in season. It may be able to squeeze into the parquet with \$100,000, but ought to double that so as to be able to take one of the highest seats in the synagogue.

Waverly Juvenile Grange No. 1. The first Juvenile Grange in Michigan was organized six miles

north of Paw Paw, March 14th, with eighteen charter members. Following is the list of officers: Master, Verne Armstrong. Overseer, S. B. Frisbie. Secretary, Verne Bell. Steward, Glenn Frisbie. Lecturer, Glenn Breed. Chaplain, John Stoughton. Gate-Keeper, Joe Allen. Ass't Steward, Ettie Davis. Pomona, Alice Markillie. Flora, Flora Markillie. Ceres, Minnie Stanton. Matron, Mrs. N. W. Armstrong. There is reported to be great enthusiasm among these little folks to become proficient in their duties, and we predict that they, in the future, will be the leading spirits in every enterprise that needs organized effort. We have placed the Secretary's name on the free list for one year, and will send the Visitor free to every Juvenile Grange organized before January 1892.

Coach Horses.

The boom in coach horses seems to be at flood tide. The recent sales by the Cleveland Bay Horse Co., of Paw Paw, Michigan, include the following: Prince Imperial, 649, to Thos. Kelly, of Shelby, Mich.; Lucks All and two fillies to the North Dakota Horse Co., of LaMoure; Earl Cleveland, 524, to Lange & Porter, of Ottawa county, Mich.; (this horse is one of the winners at Chicago last year) Prince Royal, 196, to J. E. Lamphere, of Berea, Ohio; Horsefall's Marvel, 453, to S. J. Acker, Charlotte, Mich.; Young Sultan to Wm. Dir. Schoolcraft, Mich.; Prince Laurel, 451, to Adam Wiefenbach, of Schoharie county, N. Y.; Prince of Wales 2d, 540, to Sutherland & Crowley, of Saginaw, Mich. This is the colt that won first at the great Harrowgate show in 1890 and second at the American Horse Show in Chicago last fall, and of him the London Live Stock Journal in its report of the show says: "Prince of Wales 2d. was by far the best horse in the ring. He is coming two and is, without doubt, as good a coach horse as was ever brought to America." May Queen, 523, to Adam Wiefenbach; Golden Rule, 424, to Smith & Wakeman, of Parshallville, Mich. and the grand French coach stallion Hidalgo to John Schipper, of Allegan county, Michigan. The company still have a fine lot of horses and will this year make the largest importation since its organization.

We received a letter from Battle Creek last week which seemed to call for some explanation from the Western Plaster Agency. We wrote to Grand Rapids headquarters and the following is their reply, which talks straight business in a way no member of the order can complain of. We hope our friends will avail themselves of the offer of plaster at \$2.50 per ton, which is a concession of the plaster people to the figures which the Executive Committee of the State Grange themselves established as reasonable: WESTERN PLASTER AGENCY, Grand Rapids, March 21. A. C. GLIDDEN, Paw Paw, Mich.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 20th at hand. It is our purpose to recognize all orders for land plaster and answer all inquiries when they come to us under authority of Grange seal. But where no such evidence is given, and in places where there are dealers who keep plaster on hand, we naturally would refer inquiries to them. We do not know who the Battle Creek complaint comes from, but you can rest assured the reply to him must have been governed by reasons given above. Inquiries and orders are two dif-

ferent things, but we must surely expect the Grange authority with them.

Yours truly, A. C. TORREY, Sec'y.

Spring is upon us earlier than usual. Bluebirds were seen earlier in March than for many years. Plowing was begun by our farmers on the 23d. Although a pencil has been handled for a couple of years oftener than the plow, we started the team in the center of a 25 acre field at that date and plowed around a few times as a starter. Every plowman knows how important this is and we are egotistical enough to believe that we can do it as well as anyone. Every field on the farm is plowed alternately in and out, so that no dead furrows shall appear. A level field and an even surface is a thing of beauty and a joy to the binder driver.

The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of Hathaway's seed corn by the grower himself. We have looked over the testimonials from prominent farmers with whom we are acquainted. These are not needed where the corn is grown—it speaks for itself. We have a typical ear lying on our table challenging inspection. When writing Mr. Hathaway mention this paper.

A subscriber from Minnesota, in a letter renewing his and some of his friends' subscriptions, adds the following in a postscript:

"I was glad to see the Michigan State Grange 'sit down on' the visionary, fanatical schemes of the National Grange and the Southern Farmers' Alliance. The Minnesota Patrons are generally with Michigan."

The publication office of the VISITOR keeps pace with the march of improvement. Twelve incandescent lamps depend from its ceilings; an arc light hangs in the street before it, and, while the Visitor may not "electrify" its readers, it hopes to shine with a light in keeping with its surroundings.

The report of the Department of Agriculture for March estimates the number of animals on the farms of Michigan, the per cent. as compared with former years, their average value and total value as follows:

|              | Per Cent. former yrs. | No.     | Average price. | Total value. |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Horses       | 100                   | 472531  | \$31.28        | \$38,864,417 |
| Mules        | 100                   | 6695    | 93.99          | 572,323      |
| Sheep        | 101                   | 2263249 | 3.25           | 7,348,346    |
| Hogs         | 93                    | 910242  | 4.48           | 4,073,334    |
| Milch Cows   | 101                   | 150475  | 25.18          | 1,156,981    |
| Other Cattle | 94                    | 503899  | 20.15          | 10,155,195   |

Value of live stock on farms \$72,085,156

Michigan ranks 6 in number and 4 in value of the sheep in her borders and stands even with Ohio in average value, viz. \$3.25 per head.

Dropping out the states who do not raise as many horses as they require for their own use, Michigan leads all in average price, out-ranking the famous blue grass region of Kentucky, and the great horse raising states of Illinois and Iowa.

The aggregate of numbers of different kinds of farm animals in the United States in comparison with those of a corresponding period of last year are as follows:

|               | No. of 1890 | 1891     | Increase or decrease |
|---------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| Horses        | 4213837     | 4296750  | +82813               |
| Mules         | 231027      | 2296532  | +34495               |
| Milch Cows    | 15952883    | 16019591 | +6628                |
| Oxen & Cattle | 36849024    | 36825648 | -23376               |
| Sheep         | 41339072    | 43431136 | +2092364             |
| Swine         | 31622780    | 50625106 | +19002326            |

There has been a slight reduction in values of all animals except sheep as the following table will show:

|               | 1890    | 1891    | Increase or decrease |
|---------------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Horses        | \$68.84 | \$67.00 | -\$1.84              |
| Mules         | 78.25   | 77.88   | -\$.37               |
| Milch Cows    | 22.14   | 21.62   | -\$.52               |
| Oxen & Cattle | 15.21   | 14.76   | -\$.45               |
| Sheep         | 2.27    | 2.50    | +.23                 |
| Swine         | 4.72    | 4.15    | -\$.57               |

Total decrease in values of all live stock in the United States amounts in comparison with a year ago to \$88,978,258.

If these estimates are approximately correct, then the generally accepted idea of a shortage

in cattle is erroneous. Hogs show a depreciation of 7 per cent in numbers and also in average values, but this can be easily accounted for in the high price of corn, that caused the farmers to market their hogs as soon as possible.

At first sight it would seem as though there might be "plenty money" in hogs for the next season but it is possible for a crop of hogs to be grown and marketed within the next eight months large enough to overcome any deficiency in mess pork and judging from "futures" in that commodity, I think the men who manipulate the markets have the same idea. E. A. WILDEY.

TANGERINE, Orange Co., Fla., March 7.—The GRANGE VISITOR is a regular visitor and a most welcome one. It is not only a congenial visitor, but it is a trusted visitor; it comes as a ship under full sail, but it carries plenty of ballast in the hold, therefore it is not cranky. Somehow one feels that the pilot is safe. We see from the way he steers that he has studied the charts and knows where the rocks are. It voices the sentiments of the Michigan State Grange, and the action of that body of farmers shows that they have studied too. The calm, clear and logical manner in which that body dissected and condemned the "sub treasury" bill, so called, is proof of the educational value of the Grange. Such men as J. G. Rumsdell are a tower of strength to any body of men; the Michigan State Grange has many of them. My old friend and brother, Woodman, is still in the harness and long may you have his counsel.

The action of the substantial, experienced, educated old Michigan State Grange in condemnation of wild cat financing is as it should be, a beacon light to guide younger organizations in the path of safety.

Of all men in the world, no class needs a steady, unvarying, reliable currency so much as the farmer. His property is in substantial, stable, reliable form, and he needs a reliable currency by which to measure his land and its products. I would as soon measure the acreage of my orange grove with an india rubber string as measure the value of the product with a flexible currency.

If I devote my time mainly to my farm, I would then soon become the prey of the speculator, who devotes his time to watching the stretching and contracting of a flexible currency. The colossal fortunes and the farm mortgages of to-day very largely date back to the inflated currency of twenty-five years ago. That unavoidable issue of a depreciated currency so unsettled values that it was a rich harvest for speculators and of course the farmer at his plow could not keep up with the fluctuation and so he suffered. The same thing would occur again under the same condition. The currency of the future should be like the farmer and his farm, and its three leading characteristics should be STABILITY! STABILITY! STABILITY! Yours truly, DUDLEY W. ADAMS.

A Good Example.

At our Grange Saturday night I introduced the subject of appointing a canvasser for the VISITOR, and was about doing so as I heard no objection, when one brother got up and wanted to discuss the matter, which was granted. He thought the VISITOR should be sustained and finally wound up by a motion that the W. Master be said canvasser, and it was carried. Master accepted and told them that he was not going to take no for an answer, so recess was declared and every brother present not a subscriber became one before we called to order again. Our Grange is booming, have taken in five new members and more coming. Fraternally, H. H. DRESSER, Master Litchfield Grange.

"Gentle spring" loses many of its terrors when the system is fortified by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. With multitudes this wonderful tonic-alterative has long superseded all other spring medicines, being everywhere recommended by physicians.



APRIL 1, 1891

A paper read by Arthur T. Stark before the session held at Watson, March 3, of the Allegan County Council.

Does the office of County Supt. of Schools make our schools enough better to justify the people in paying him the salary he now receives?

I will not answer this question yes or no, nor will I express an opinion, but will endeavor to give a few figures and show other views of this much agitated matter than are generally given, and shall try to be fair and not keep any point hidden that may occur to me.

I do not know what the salary of the superintendent is, but am informed that it is, in this county, \$1,200 per annum. If this is true then we have a basis for calculation. We will estimate the population of this county at 36,000 person.

These figures we will let stand until we look at the other side of the matter, before we strike a balance. The examination of candidates for teachers in the public schools is a time honored custom, the existence of which has nothing to do with our question. To be sure years ago we had schools without the aid of county superintendents; then, as now, the final test of a teacher was in the schoolroom; then, as now, there were those who taught school with success. Now, as then, some teachers with brass and smiles gain access to positions they are not fit for and cannot keep. Even now there are teachers holding first grade certificates in this county that are not fit, morally or mentally, to fill a teacher's chair in the humblest school inside its boundaries.

The methods by which those to whom I refer have obtained their high commissions, would not obtain under the old regime. On the other hand people have stated in my presence, that teachers in the prime of their lives, with long records as successful teachers, were barred out under the new rules. Then it is said that an occasional circumstance occurs by which some person, with a superabundance of native modesty and naturally diffident and a poor hand at guessing conundrums, has failed to get inside the flag. Perhaps they were made an example of, to teach their associates to "Be bold, be bold!"

Teachers should be able to work out simple problems, like the following, before attempting to teach even a back woods district school, for they are problems in real, every day life and yet they say they have puzzled many a would be pedagogue and perhaps have caused some to be distanced in the race:

Two persons purchased a dressed hog weighing 200 pounds for \$10. Said one to the other, I will take my share from the hind quarters and will allow you six cents per pound, and you may take your five dollars worth from the fore quarters, at four cents. Agreed, said the other. How many pounds should each have?

Suppose your certificate depended on a correct answer to this simple problem, which no doubt a majority of those present have already figured out in their heads and got, if not the correct answer, at least very near it. Would you feel like robbing the poor superintendent of schools of his hard earned salary, just because you could not divide a 200 pound porker?

Another: The angle of reflection being equal to the angle of incidence, at what angle should a boy standing in the door in the center of a side of a square hold a pistol so the bullet, reflecting from one wall to the other, should return to the point where the aim was taken? Easy in theory, but hard to practice; for the proof is liable to knock out an eye; that is if you got the correct answer. How's this for spring examination, about house cleaning time?

A cistern ten feet deep is sixteen feet across the bottom, and the cover is four feet square. Supposing this cistern is one-third full of dirty water, how long will it take a boy thirteen years old to dip out the water, using a pole 11 feet long and a bucket holding 3½ gallons?

These problems are not sup-

posed to test a candidate's knowledge of mathematics so much as his knowledge of every day life, for which he is supposed to train his pupils. Physiological questions like these should be easily answered, but puzzle some whose memories are not good; as, for instance:

How many bones did Adam wear at his wedding?

What class of people use the musculus sartorius?

Why would a passenger in an old-fashioned stage coach use the musculus tensor facial later, when asked to walk up a hill?

Geographical questions like these show the ingenuity exercised by the examiner in his effort to earn his salary:

At the time of the flood the highest mountain peak was submerged; how deep was the water on the present site of New Orleans?

Supposing the Panama canal to be complete and a vessel loaded with self binders for Australia should leave New York via Suez, and return loaded with wool via Panama, which would require the most time, the trip out or the return?

We will now leave the examiners, feeling that we have shown them to be a public necessity, and proceed to the grading of our district schools. This may appear to be a difficult matter to the uninitiated, but I am assured that it is not, except in the very small schools of seven or less scholars, where it sometimes puzzles the teachers to make eight grades from such a limited supply of material.

To assist in extreme cases like this, the services of the superintendent becomes an absolute necessity. That instances like this sometimes occur is no fault of the system, nor of the superintendent, but is usually attributed to the penurious habits of the patrons of the schools themselves. For obvious reasons these difficulties usually occur in wealthy districts.

The benefits from the system of grading schools, made possible only by the efforts of the county superintendent, may seem to be obscure to many, but I will only mention a single one. To illustrate: A boy, in the old way, might commence going to school when he was five years of age and stay till he was old enough to elope with the schoolma'am, and not have any means of telling when he had gone long enough.

Now he starts in at the first grade, exhibits his monthly examination cards marked 97, out of a possible 100; announces, from time to time, that he has been promoted from grade to grade and at twelve he graduates and is ready to take his place where? Why, in the 9th grade in the union school.

There he passes from grade to grade and after graduating from thence he is prepared to enter the university from which he, if he has enough of common sense left, may yet learn to be a useful citizen. If, after this, he will be a business man he must needs attend a business college. He can possibly yet learn to be a civil engineer, or he may yet get to be a professional man by learning the special trade just as the old boys did when grading was not heard of.

For fear that I may not have made it plain that grading is a positive benefit and worth the small tax per capita that I will shortly show that the whole business costs. I will give another illustration of its benefits. I will refer you to our county papers, where reports from Cheshire and Pine Plains and all over our beautiful county furnish the interesting statements that Edie Biggs and Sammy Gammel stood 87 in the eighth grade and Pearl Robbins and Ina Bowersox were at the head of the 5th grade.

"Thirdly," as the minister used to say, the duty of the superintendent is to visit the 240 or so schools in the county. If the superintendent does no other good than to tell each teacher that she has the most orderly, the brightest and altogether the most lovable school in the county; and to tell the scholars that they have only to cherish, love, honor, and obey the teacher and thank their stars that they are

allowed the great privilege of being her pupils, and they will speedily grow to be great men like himself, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, Napoleon Bonaparte and the like; and these bright, dear, little girls, they will soon be strong-minded, splendid ladies like their teacher, Victoria Woodhull, Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Hazlitt, Adeline Patti and a great many other noted women, whose names occur to the superintendent, but whom the little girls never heard of. All this pleases the teacher and don't fool the kids who, after he is gone, remark that the old gent thinks that he is stuffing somebody.

Further the superintendent can suggest, if he wishes, to the teacher, that the kinds of text books used in her school are obsolete, out of date, back numbers, and urge her to make the lives of the school board miserable until they adopt new and modern publications.

This causes a flutter of pleasurable excitement among the patrons of the school and they gladly part with the small portion of their large surplus of shekels necessary to make the desired change. But some people will growl and say that the superintendent stands in with the publishers. But any one who will stop to think will know that the ridiculously low price of school books precludes the possibility of any such division of the spoils.

Then the superintendent can further suggest to the teacher that pure air brings a useful commodity in a schoolroom; the director should place on the sill of each window a cleat three inches wide so the windows could be raised a trifle to afford ventilation and not allow a particle of wind to strike the pupils. And Miss Brown, the school board in this wealthy district should be ashamed of themselves that they do not provide you with a few conveniences such as a dictionary, globe, maps, organ, physiological chart, rulers, square and compass, pointers, clock, pokers, etc., etc.

Then the most important part of the superintendent's duty and the one for which we should be the most thankful is the rise in value of teachers' services since the creation of the office. The value of anything is the price it will bring in market. Judging from the service now rendered by some teachers who command \$36 a month and their janitor work done, the services of those who, under the old style, used to build their own fires, and sweep their own houses and teach every other Saturday for ten shillings a week, must have been poor indeed. But some who generally know what they are talking about, still insist that the schools were as good then as now.

The tariff may be the cause of this rise in prices of school ma'ams, by fostering our infant industries, but the supply of schoolma'ams is kept, in well regulated counties, just equal to the demand, thus preventing ruinous competition.

Let us take up our figures now and see what the whole salary comes to and see if it is out of proportion, to the immense benefits that I hope I have plainly shown to come from the services of the county superintendent. \$1,200 tax on 36,000 people. About 3 cents per capita per annum. Scarcely enough to pay the expense of mailing a letter; not enough to pay for a glass of beer; nor enough to pay for a cigar unless you smoke twofers.

From a long experience as a school officer I do not know of any way that I could invest my three cents, that would remind me of their mission oftener, than in paying my share in the superintendent's salary. Then there is always some person that expects the public to support him, so why not do it in a style worthy of this wealthy country where taxes are so notoriously light.

Suggestions from the Committee on W. W.

Believing that the best good of the Order will be advanced by a slight change in the literary exercises of Subordinate Granges, the state committee on Woman's Work in the Grange recommend

that spelling be added to the contest system. Every Grange has many good and valuable members who cannot recite from memory nor write an essay, and to whom such attempts would be of no practical benefit. But every one has, sometimes, to write letters or business documents, and spelling is something easily forgotten if once learned, and needs to be in active use to keep bright.

We have known many educated people who could not write a letter properly without a dictionary before them for continual reference.

The two sides into which the Grange is divided in contest should stand up and spell down, the winning side scoring points, to be regulated according to the rest of the contest, which may be recitations, essays and debate. All after-talk on an essay should be argument bearing directly on the subject.

We believe there is a good deal of fun to be gotten out of the spelling, as well as educational profit. It will revive the memories of the good old-time spelling schools in the minds of the elderly members, and the young will be ambitious to "spell down" the older ones.

We would also suggest that each Subordinate Grange, as often at least as once in every quarter, hold an open meeting, to which each family can take all their children, their hired help, and any stranger that happens to be within their gates. Let the boys and girls have their pieces to read or recite on subjects tending to build up the love of purity and right, of patriotism and integrity.

The boy who recites an article against the pernicious tobacco habit or the use of ardent spirits, and is cheered and applauded by older persons, will be the stronger to resist the allurements that the vicious may throw around him.

Although the Grange is not called strictly a total abstinence society, we should make it in some way aggressive to the evils that in many ways insidiously undermine the integrity of the people.

In view of the many avenues to wrong-doing that are now open to the young, the Grange trump should give no uncertain sound.

MRS. A. R. MCRAE,  
MRS. A. GUNNISON,  
MRS. A. M. GOULD.

Sheep Shearing Festival.

Following is the program of the ninth annual festival of the Cass County Wool-Growers' and Sheep-Breeders' Association, to be held at Vandalia on Thursday, April 2d, 1891:

The following prizes are offered:

- 1st. American Merino ewe by H. S. Chapman on best pen American Merino sheep. Pen to consist of two ewes and one ram.
- 2d. American Merino ewe by Lot Bonine on best pen Delaine Merinos—two ewes and one ram.
- 3d. Grade Black Top Delaine ram by H. S. Chapman on best pen 5 coarse-wool lambs, all ewes or 4 ewes and 1 ram.
- 4th. Grade Shropshire ram by Nathan Jones on best pen 5 fine wool lambs, all ewes or 4 ewes and 1 ram.
- 5th. Three-quarter Shropshire ram by Wm. W. Jones—sweepstake prize for best American Merino ram, any age.
- 6th. American Merino ram by Z. Wager for best coarse wool ram, any breed.
- 7th. American Merino ram by G. W. Jones, sweepstake prize on best pen coarse wool sheep, any breed, 2 ewes and 1 ram.
- 8th. Thurston hay rack by H. S. Chapman, grand sweepstake on best pen of 6 fine wool sheep, 3 ewes and 3 rams. Ages: first pair, ewe and ram, about 1 year old; second pair, ewe and ram, 2 years old; third pair over 2 years old. All sheep must be entered in owner's name. Sheep may contest for sweepstake prize regardless of having competed for other prizes. Exhibitors are requested to furnish the president with standard of excellence for the various breeds shown. No entry fee required except a membership fee of 25 cents.
- 9th. Cash prize of \$1 each on best ram's and ewe's fleece by Frank Chapman—Merinos only competing.
- 10th. Cash prize of \$1 for best

ram's fleece by Wm. H. Norton, and a cash prize of \$1 on best ewe's fleece by Lot B. James—all coarse wools competing.

11th. Sheep shearers are requested to compete for the following prizes: First—\$1.50; second, \$1.25; 3d, \$1.00.

All prizes open to the world. Breeders, bring your sheep; shearers, your shears; horsemen, your fine stock.

The ladies of Penn township will furnish a chicken-pie dinner, the proceeds to go into the treasury of the Sunday School association.

H. H. PHILLIPS, Sec'y.  
H. S. CHAPMAN, Pres't.

Notices of Meetings.

Oakland Pomona Grange No. 5 will meet at the Birmingham Grange Hall, April 14, with the following program:

- Opening of Grange in form in 5th degree.
- Reports Subordinate Granges.
- Suggestions for the good of the Order.
- Dinner.
- Music by the choir.
- Address of welcome by the W. M. of Birmingham Grange.
- Response by the W. M. of Pomona Grange.
- Recitation, Mrs. A. J. Taylor.
- Song, J. Benjamin.
- How do Monopolies Tax the Farmers? G. M. Trowbridge.
- J. P. Coon, A. B. Richmond, C. E. Dewey.
- Song, C. S. Bartlett.
- Essay, Mrs. J. Benjamin.
- What Advantages are offered by the Grange to Young People? J. A. Graley, Mrs. J. J. Snook, H. A. Bacon, Porter Wright.
- Select reading, Richard Bartlett.

Branch Co. Pomona Grange will hold its next meeting with Butler Grange, on Friday, April 23. A more extended notice will be given in the next issue of the Visitor.

CARRIE L. FISKE, Sec'y.

The next meeting of the Allegan Co. Pomona Grange will be held with Moline Grange April 16th, commencing at 10 o'clock, with 5th degree in the evening. All 4th degree members are invited. Questions of interest to all are to be discussed.

MRS. L. A. SPENCER, Lec.

EDITOR VISITOR:—Clearwater Grange No. 674 is still alive and growing. Five applications were taken in last Grange night, and we expect more next meeting. We are having our first contest now, and it is a lively one. Each side is doing its best to win. The side that gets beaten will have to furnish the supper.

LECTURER.

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.

Wants and For Sale.

This column is for the use of subscribers only. A five line notice of about 40 words will be admitted free in one issue. For every subsequent insertion 10 cents per line will be charged, which must accompany the order to continue. A fee of ten cents per line will also be charged for the excess of five lines, or at the rate of 10 cents for 8 words. Nothing will be admitted free except notices relating to the miscellaneous wants of farmers—such as will facilitate an exchange of articles, implements, animals, etc.; farms to rent and those wanting them; help wanted and those wanting work; exchanging large farms for small ones, or vice versa; exchanging locations. Regular breeders having animals for sale, or those growing seeds or plants for sale, will be charged per line as above.

Read the first sentence of this notice again.

SEED Corn—growth of last year—\$1.50 per bu., including sack. Not less than 1 bu. sent. A. C. GLIDDEN, Paw Paw, Mich.

FOR SALE, or will trade for other stock—One registered Short Horn Bull, Ays. five past; color, dark red; weight, 2,000 lbs.; gentle and orderly, and a good stock getter. Price, \$75.00. LOWELL SOUERS, Elk Rapids, Mich.

FOR SALE—Registered Hereford Bulls, cheap. Also, a Steam Threshing Machine, complete, and a Duplex Feed Mill. CHAS. McDIARMID, Bear Lake, Manistee Co., Mich.

FOR SALE—5,000 No. 1 Red Dutch Currant plants, 1 year old, at \$1.00 per thousand. A. H. BISHOP, Riverside, Berrien Co., Mich.

WANTED—10 bu. Early Ohio Potatoes for seed. JNO. IHLING, L'ke Co., Van Buren Co., Mich.



## Ladies' Department.

## April.

Full of moods, and full of pranks,  
Who on earth can trust thy face?  
Thy promises, however fair,  
Thou dost at any time forswear,  
Spite of all thine artless grace,  
Blue thine eyes, and bright thy face,  
What of that? Thou art not true!  
Smiles one moment, tears the next;  
One day pleased, the other vex;  
No one knows what thou wilt do,  
Oh, we know thee thro' and thro',  
Wayward, sancy child of spring!  
Thy very birth makes fools of men,  
And all through thy careless reign  
Cloud and sunshine dost thou bring.

## A Lost Day.

How many tasks I planned at dawn!  
I said, "When this fair day is gone,  
And I sit down at eventide  
To count the work my hands have done  
Between the rise and set of sun,  
I shall be fully satisfied."

And then I wove a web of dreams,  
And hours slipped by like sunny streams,  
Unnoted in their rapid flight,  
And when I roused myself, at last,  
To act, I found the day was past,  
And sunset fading into night.

Oh, foolish dreams! Oh, wasted day!  
This, and this only can I say—  
"Not one good deed my hands have done,"  
But much I might have done, had I  
But used the hours as they passed by,  
But I have squandered every one.

God gives his days for us to use  
For some good purpose. If we choose  
To squander them, how great our sin;  
I shudder when I think He keeps  
A record of them all and weeps  
To see the misspent hours therein.

Oh, ye who give to dreams God's hours,  
A serpent lurks beneath the flowers  
Of idle moods and weak delay;  
Rouse! Make to-morrow's record fair,  
Be this the angel's record there:  
"To-day atones for yesterday."

## Compensation.

If you lift from some heart its burden of care,  
As you journey on life's dusty road,  
You are not only garnering treasures up there,  
But you lighten your own earthly load.

If you cheer some soul on its wearisome way,  
Or drive from some brow its shadows and gloom,  
Your burden will lighten each hour of the day,  
And you are strewn with flowers your road to the tomb.

If you come as a helper to a soul that's in need,  
Or lend to the weary your strengthening hand,  
You are tilling God's garden, and growing the seed  
For a harvest of love, in the soul's summerland.

If you have but a word, a smile or, a tear,  
Don't hoard it; give freely, 'twill solace some grief,  
Take the pain from some heart, some weary one  
And bring to the pain in thine own heart, relief.

## Language and Writing.

Paper read by Mrs. A. H. Smith at the Farmers' Association of Antwerp and Paw Paw, March 25th, 1891.

These two things are so much a part of our existence that we seldom stop to consider what we would do without either or both, yet there was a time when the latter was not, and some claim a period when no language existed. If speech was not innate in man, but a development, then there certainly was a time when no language existed, and we must imagine the people all mutes—tongues were of little use to men.

Society, or the coming in contact with each other, created a necessity for communication, and sounds were made, and when these sounds became intelligible language was established. Just how long this speech or traditional period lasted I have been unable to ascertain. Up to the building of the Tower of Babel the people were of one speech, and we all know the tradition that accounts for so many languages. I have often wondered what were the feelings of those people when their tongues were confused. With what consummate consternation each must have looked at the other, and what a babel there must have been!

I do not understand that an entirely different and distinct language was given each man, but that each was made incomprehensible of the others' sounds. They wandered near and far, spreading all over the world; some to the warmer regions, and others to the colder north, again going through those same developments of evolving a language that their ancestors did so many years before. Historians attribute differences of tongues as well as physique to climate; the ruggedness and rigor of the colder climates manifesting themselves in harsh, rough sounds, while the warmer, sunny climates create a smooth, liquid sounding language.

History was simply a verbal or oral account of things handed down from one generation to another, and must of necessity be uncertain and contradictory. Oral history was simply the

sound of the voice, it was heard within a certain circle, then it died. There must be some way of recording that sound, of telling future generations exactly how events occurred. The first attempted was painting—very crude—telling by pictures; but this was too laborious, it took too much time and space to record—it must be abridged. When abridgment took place the mind or imagination furnished the deficiency and in consequence history became inaccurate as the traditions. To supply this deficiency characters were introduced and there was a combination of representations and characters. The Egyptians attained the highest degree of perfection in this line of writing, as we may term it. Long before Abraham went down into Egypt, when the Hebrew race was in its infancy, the Egyptians had raised those great monuments of stone, and on the walls of the interior chambers of those pyramids is the representation of their language, called hieroglyphics.

The Chinese claim to be the oldest nation on the face of the earth, to have the oldest language, and to be the first to attempt the representation of speech. But their antiquity is entirely ignored by other civilizations and their representation of language is abhorred. It is still in its first crude form, having nearly or quite 20,000 characters.

It is not known just when characters alone were first used. All that history can furnish is that Cadmus, a Phœnician, carried into Greece 16 letters, to which 10 more have at different times been added. It is an interesting subject to follow out the transition of letters from Hebrew to English.

Our present English language being the youngest of tongues is a conglomeration made up of words inherited from all previous languages. Hardly a word in Webster's dictionary but has after it in brackets, Gr., Fr., Lat., Ger., or some other abbreviation, and to understand thoroughly our own language it is almost necessary to study all the tongues for 2,000 years back. What a saving of time and energy is the dictionary!

Language is continually changing. The English of 500 years ago is as different from the present language as the present is different from the French or German, one can hardly decipher any of the words. Only 100 years ago discover was used for disclose; prevent, which actually means to go before, now means to hinder; censure once meant an opinion, favorable or unfavorable, now it is used to denote only that which is unfavorable; admire once meant to wonder at, now it means to regard with esteem. Some words go out of use entirely, and are marked obsolete in the dictionary. Use makes language and when a newly coined word becomes general and its use has been sanctioned by the best writers and speakers it is given a place in the dictionary, and the word it has supplied is marked obsolete. Pope's rule on words is put into every rhetoric, and if all would commit it and make use of its advice, slang phrases would soon go out of existence.

"In words, as in fashions, the same rule will hold;  
Alike fantastic if too new or old;  
Be not the first by whom the new are tried,  
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

The study of synonymous terms is an interesting subject to pursue. There are so many words of similar meaning, that, apparently, any one of them will do, but if the dictionary be consulted they will be found to vary a great deal, and any shade or intensity of meaning can be expressed exactly.

As English speaking people let us not "murder the King's language." Use only good, pure words, there are enough in the vocabulary to express any thought, feeling or emotion without calling on the slang phrases of the day that are so meaningless. Cultivate the best thoughts in the best language and thus help raise the standard of excellence to its greatest height by reading, conversation and writing.

## Clubs.

England, the birthplace of clubs, is beginning to feel that societies have another side besides the one commonly presented to the casual observer.

It is a club that has no house of its own and incurs no expenses, but meets at the homes of its members. There are no pleasanter or more profitable reunions organized. Made up of thoughtful and cultured women who keenly feel and appreciate the benefits of social intercourse, who meet (not to babble) but for the interchange of their thoughts, to talk about the latest book or music or the last lecture they attended. Such a meeting is not a robbery of home, it does not interfere with home duties, it involves no waste of time, no excitement; it is a calm, healthful recreation which refreshes the overtaxed brain, soothes the jaded nerves and prepares one to fight with more courage the battle of life. Such a club, properly managed, has other merits besides those that are intellectual; it is the school of the heart, a university for the training of kindly feelings. There is a wide difference between general acquaintance and companionship; you may salute persons and exchange compliments with them daily, yet know nothing of their character, tastes or feelings; while the converse of a few hours in the unrestricted freedom in each other's parlors may disclose their true nobleness and aims.

Intercourse is, after all, our best teacher. "Know thyself" is an excellent maxim, but even self knowledge can not be perfected in closets or cloisters.

Not all of us can take up a book, read and understand it; not until we have talked with others about it and gotten their ideas. Then often we have the right ideas, but cannot express them; some of our most profound thinkers are dull in company, while shallow men have nimble and ready tongues.

Men who never mix with their fellows are sure to be one-sided; the victims of fixed ideas that sometimes lead to insanity.

Prejudice, if exposed to the sun and air of social life, would melt into nothingness.

Private reading and study are no doubt necessary to culture, and a man of science must shun many delights and live laborious days if he would sound the depths of any subject whatsoever, but conversation is as necessary as meditation.

Pleasant it is with paper knife in hand to skim the contents of the last monthly magazine, brimming full of wisdom and wit, but pleasanter far is conversation with living persons.

Reading is a great pleasure, but it is a solitary one. The fullest instruction and the fullest enjoyment are never derived from books until we have ventilated the ideas thus obtained in a free and easy chat with others. A mind must bring out in talk its impressions or it will become dyspeptic. It has been said that a man never knows anything fully until he has taught it in some way; it is equally true that many authors have talked better than they have written. Knowledge is precious for its own sake, but experience tells us that knowledge is not knowledge until we use it, that it is not ours until we have brought it under the dominion of the great social faculty speech.

Solitary reading will enable a person to stuff himself with information, but without conversation his mind will become like a pond without an outlet, an unhealthy place. Then let us talk and that our talk may be true recreation, let us talk with congenial spirits, and, as we return to our homes feeling better rested in mind and body we may be able, at least, to say with dear old Dr. Primrose in the Vicar of Wakefield, "If there was not much wit there was a good deal of laughter, which did just as well."

MRS. ISABELLA BROUGHTON,  
Paw Paw.

## Charity at Home.

There has been a certain change taking place in family life in the last few generations that has been so gradual that

one has hardly thought of it. It is the growth of charity in the family. This is one of the direct results of the liberal, kindly thought that controls an age

Of nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Instead of loosening family ties such charity is a most perfect way of cementing them. In former times it was not an uncommon thing for the head of the house to lay down certain opinions in social matters, religion and everything, and expect his entire family to give unqualified assent to them. The wife who was so bold as to dissent from the opinion of her liege lord was looked upon as little better than a criminal. The daughter who cherished different ideas in religion from the rest of the family must keep them rigorously to herself unless she married a man of her secret faith; then she might proclaim it from the housetops. There are still domestic tyrants but it is not now considered incumbent on the head of the family, as it was formerly, to dictate the personal opinions of all the rest of the family. There is much more likely to be harmony and love in a household where mutual forbearance is shown among the different members and where the opinions of each person who has arrived at the years of discretion is heard and respected. Charity and forbearance are nowhere needed more than here, where there are often found the greatest differences of taste and disposition. Hereditary dispositions, taken from remote ancestors of whom we have never heard, often appear among our children, which perplex us as much as the ways of duck children do a motherly hen. It is, then, time to remember that our personal way of solving the problems of life is not the only way; that hundreds of persons before us, equally conscientious and much more learned, have held diametrically different opinions. It will profit us nothing to live in a spirit of contention and dispute with those whom we love best. There are, unhappily, too many families who live in this constant state of contention from the efforts of each to control the thoughts and ways of thought of others. Nothing is gained, but everything is lost by such a course. Gradually the bonds of affection become loosened, and the different members of the household seek peace among their friends, where they would not dare such dictatorial behavior. It is not an uncommon thing for a brother or a sister in a family to control the opinions of the others by sheer force of will, from which every one is glad to escape when opportunity offers. It seems impossible to make some people understand that the personal opinions of everyone are something that belong to them as individuals as much as the circulation of their blood. As you can administer remedies to correct morbid changes in the circulation, so you can administer moral and mental food that shall correct morbid tendencies of thought. Control and subvert the tendencies of thought in another you cannot—not even in the child who but a few years ago was but a smiling, helpless infant in your arms. Had the All Father intended that any persons should become mere mechanical agencies for the opinions and thoughts of others, He would not have given them the power to choose between good and evil, and would no doubt have ordained that they be guided by Infinite Wisdom rather than by fallible and finite beings. The mother who demands that her grown daughter shall servilely follow her in her opinions is acting in direct antagonism to Providence, who made her child a responsible being capable of choosing her own thoughts and opinions.—N. Y. Tribune.

## No Place Like Home.

The best thing—among all good things that can be taught a child—is perhaps to teach him the art or develop in him the capability of being happy without the aid of external amusements, says American Cultivator. It is an art that must be learned in childhood, for it is on the line of development rather than ac-

quirement. The man or woman who depends on amusements or entertainments for the happiness of his or her life is a most unfortunate being, and is, whatever his comforts, or luxuries, or resources of the moment, a slave to the accidents and incidents of life. All personal happiness that is worth having or the holding must be inherent in personality. It must be based on right feeling, right doing, or generous impulses; on thoughtfulness for others and forgetfulness of one's self. In fact, the one great source of unhappiness, of anxiety, discontent and regret is a prevailing self-consciousness. The very moment one forgets himself in something higher than himself, that moment he has the surest basis of true happiness. It is because of this that work is a blessing rather than idleness; not labor, not drudgery, but work, with its inherent possibilities of satisfaction and its margins of leisure. The individual who is born to a specialty, and whose life has developed this particular talent, enabling him to use it for his own pleasure, and to the benefit of others, has the most valuable and the most permanent of inheritances. To work in the line that one enjoys is like rowing with the tide or sowing with the grain—all forces of nature are its natural aids. The young man or woman to whom an evening is dull and meaningless, without some external entertainment, to whom the theatre, the concert or the social gathering must supply happiness, and, failing these, leave him dissatisfied, is a subject for commiseration. Yet the power of will may do much. To set to work at some study, even though at first it be a drudgery, will be to enter on the road to a truer content and a higher plane of living. When there is entertainment and amusement it can enjoy and appreciate it; when there is not it can use time wisely and happily in any solitude.

My mind to me a kingdom is.  
said Watts. It is the best of all possible kingdoms. To cultivate in a child a love for reading, a facility for study, a devotion to some special pursuit, a generous sympathy and good will toward all humanity, is to give him that happiness which, like the peace that passeth all understanding, the world can neither give nor take away.

## Sensible Girls.

An exchange says: "American girls take better care of their health than their mothers did."

The gymnasium which was almost unknown to women fifty years ago, now takes up nearly one-third of their time."

Many of our girls have seen the folly of tight shoes, corsets, etc., and are dressing in a more rational and natural manner. A much greater number of common sense low heeled shoes are sold than there was ten or even five years ago. Many women and girls have discarded their corsets entirely, and in consequence are stronger and better in every way.

Fashion has decreed that union undergarments and princess dresses are the thing, and many who have heretofore dressed in anything but a sensible and healthful way are now doing so.

The outfits of many brides which are supposed to be in the latest style are both sensible and comfortable as well as pretty.

The time was once, and not a very great many years ago either, when dress-reform garments were ridiculed and all who wore them regarded as cranks and fanatics. We are thankful that day is past and that now we are free to dress as sensibly as we please. Beauty and symmetry have been combined with common sense, and the result is most gratifying.

It is a deplorable fact that trains are once more coming in to favor, would that they were banished forever.

The girl of to-day is ever busy, and the demands on her time are many and varied. If she has entered the business world she has learned that she must dress in a simple, comfortable manner if she wishes to keep well and make the most of herself.

We are glad to see the improvement in this direction for there is need enough of it.



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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Michigan State Grange. Porcelain ballot marbles, per hundred \$ 75. Secretary's ledger 1 00. Secretary's record 1 00.

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FOR LADIES ONLY. I will send any Secret, that cost me \$5.00, a Rubber Sheet for 20 cents.

Two Old Friends.

That rusty pair of scissors and that dingy pot of paste. May not be called a monument of literary taste.

A Blow at Trusts.

Another severe blow has been struck at trusts by a decision of the Supreme Court of New York.

Flowers of the Snow.

It is a singular fact that within the Antarctic Circle no flowering plant is found.

"The polar flowers seldom have any perfume, and the few that exhibit this delightful quality, are from that class that have crept over the cold border of the Arctic Circle.

"The colors of these boreal blossoms are generally of the cold tints, as if in harmony with the chilly surroundings.

"White and yellow predominate, and these colors seem associated with frost and cold weather.

Edison's Explanation of the Ampere and the Volt. During a recent examination a lawyer put the following question to Thomas A. Edison:

Emergencies.

Why is it that in emergencies one person does just the right thing, while another stands helpless and irresolute?

A Present for Every Bride.

For twenty-three years The Household has been a welcome visitor in hundreds of thousands of American homes.

This is a very tempting offer, and they call it their "Wedding Present," which they offer to every bride in the United States.

In 1887 inquiries were sent out to all the students at the University of Michigan relative to the pursuits of their parents.

"I have seen flowers in bloom so close to the snow, on King William's Land, that I think the foot could be put down and leave an impression on the edge of the snow and crush the flower at the same time."

A Siberian traveler says he has seen a rhododendron in this country in full flower when the roots and stem of the plant were completely encased in soil frozen as solid as stone.

A Striking Parallel. CALEDONIA Co., VT., Feb. 24, 1891. Brother Patrons.—Some ten years since I painted my house with paint bought at paint store.



Obituaries.

LACRONE.

At her residence in Kalamazoo, Mich., March 12, 1891. Worthy Sister Imogene, wife of Dr. Oliver A. LaCrone and only child of Thos. Mars, Worthy Master of Michigan State Grange.

Whereas, In view of the loss we have sustained by the death of our worthy sister, and affectionate associate, and by the still heavier loss sustained by those nearest and dearest to her, be it therefore

Resolved, That while we humbly submit to the will of Him who doeth all things well that it is but a just tribute to our departed sister and to the family and friends so suddenly bereft, that we tender our heartfelt sympathies and that the charter of Berrien Centre Grange No. 15 be draped in mourning for sixty days; that these resolutions be spread upon our record, and that a copy be sent to the husband and parents and to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

ERASTUS MURPHY, ALBERT RICKETTS, EMMA HUTCH. Com.

If any canvasser for the VISITOR desires the names of those who have formerly been taking the paper at any particular post-office, or at several, we will gladly give them. This may serve as an indicator as to whom to approach, but remember we want new names as well as all the old.

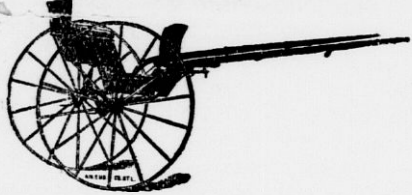
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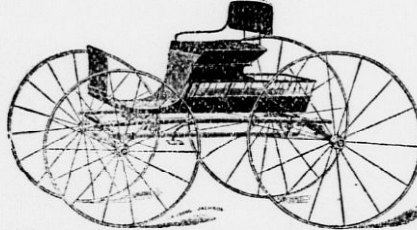
Dent. Approved by the Mich. State Ag. College. Send for "History, Testimonials and Price." Also Essay, "Seed Corn, Its Cost and Value." Raspberries for sale.—B. HATHAWAY, Little Prairie, Mich.

BUSH ROAD CART Co., Lansing, MICH.

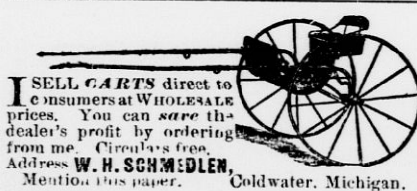
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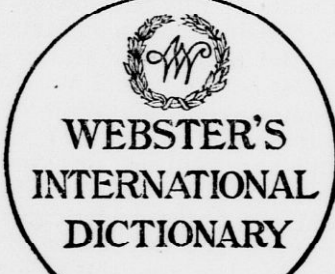


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Caution!—There have recently been issued several cheap reprints of the 1867 edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, an edition long since superannuated. These books are given various names,—"Webster's Unabridged," "The Great Webster's Dictionary," "Webster's Big Dictionary," "Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary," etc., etc.

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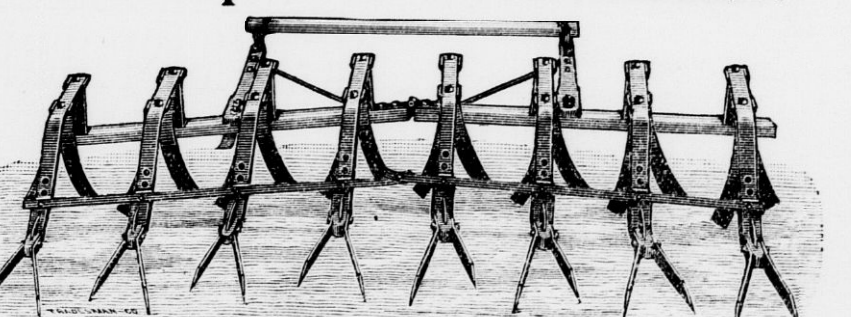


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