

GRANGE



VISITOR

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

Vol. XVI No. 22

PAW PAW, MICH., NOVEMBER 15, 1891.

Whole Number 382

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

(1st and 15th of each month.)

AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRUE NORTHERNER, PAW PAW, MICH.

Editor's address, Paw Paw, Mich., to whom all exchanges, communications, advertising business, and subscriptions should be sent.

TERMS 50 Cents a Year, 25 Cents for Six Months. Subscriptions payable in advance, and discontinued at expiration, unless renewed.

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

November.

Like some fair woman who hath lost youth's charm,
Yet holds within her heart all goodly gifts,
November comes—worn pale by storm's alarm,
Borne down by clouds, yet showing thro' their rifts

Some hints of heaven's blue and sunshine's glow
Ere falls to earth her mantle soft of snow.

What matters then tho' hill and vale are bare?
She clothes them in a dainty garb of white;
Hangs every shrub with icy jewels rare,
And fills the land with echoes of delight

From merry sleigh-bells and the rhythmic beat,
Upon the frozen road, of flying feet.

So comes Thanksgiving Day—as it should come—
With cheerfulness and joy, and ringing bells;
With dear ones gathered round the hearth of home.

While thro' the land a happy chorus swells
Which speaks a Nation's praise to God above,
In thankfulness for His protecting love!

—Lee C. Harby in Ladies' Home Journal.

Michigan's "Wild-cat" Banks.

The history of Michigan's "wild-cat" banking experience, while not so applicable to present financial discussion as other cheap money experiments which we have cited in previous numbers of *The Century*, is nevertheless instructive for two reasons: first, because it was an attempt to make "hard times" easier by unlimited issues of irredeemable paper money and second because the money so issued was based largely on land as security. For these reasons it has seemed to us worth while to recall it at the present time.

Michigan became a State in January, 1837. Almost the first act of her State legislature was the passage of a general banking law under which any ten or more freeholders of any county might organize themselves into a corporation for the transaction of banking business. Of the nominal capital of a bank only ten per cent. in specie was required to be paid when subscriptions to the stock were made, and twenty per cent. additional in specie when the bank began business. For the further security of the notes which were to be issued as currency, the stockholders were to give first mortgages upon real estate, to be estimated at its cash value by at least three county officers, the mortgages to be filed with the auditor-general of the State. A bank commissioner was appointed to superintend the organization of the banks, and to attest the legality of their proceedings to the auditor-general, who upon receiving such attestation, was to deliver to the banks circulating notes amounting to two and a half times and capital certified to as having been paid in.

This law was passed in obedience to a popular cry that the banking business had become an "odious monopoly" that ought to be broken up. Its design was to "introduce free competition into what was considered a profitable branch of business heretofore monopolized by a few favored corporations." Anybody was to be given fair opportunities for entering the business on equal terms with everybody else. The act was passed in March, 1837, and the legislature adjourned till November 9 following. Before the latter date arrived, in fact be-

fore any banks had been organized under the law, a financial panic seized the whole country. An era of wild speculation reached a climax; the banks in all the principal cities of the country suspended specie payments, and State legislatures were called together to devise remedies to meet the situation. That of Michigan was convened in special session in June, and its remedy for the case of Michigan was to leave the general banking law in force and to add to it full authority for banks organized under it to begin the business of issuing bills in a State of suspension,—that is, to flood the State with an irredeemable currency, based upon thirty per cent. of specie and seventy per cent. of land mortgage bonds. The law was so modified that any number of persons, upon signing an agreement to that effect, might become a banking corporation, and almost any one might become a director.

Everybody in the State who was in debt, and everybody who saw in the law an opportunity for rascality, went into the banking business. Within a few months wherever two roads crossed, a bank was established. One was found in a saw-mill, and one of the official records of the period says: "Every village plot with a house, or even without a house, if it had a hollow stump to serve as a vault, was the site of a bank." Many of them had no offices, no books, and no capital. Judge T. M. Cooley, in an interesting account of the experience in his history of Michigan, published in the "American Commonwealths" series, says (p. 267): "Wild lands that had been recently bought of the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre were not valued at ten or twenty times that amount, and lots in villages that still existed only on paper had a worth for banking purposes only limited by the conscience of the officer who was to take the securities."

As for the requirements for ten per cent. payment in specie at the time of subscription and twenty per cent. before beginning banking business, these were soon got around in ways more unscrupulous than ingenious. As the payments were to be made to the banks themselves, the same specie could be used many times over. Sometimes a small sum in specie was paid in and taken out, and the process repeated over and over, till the amount required was made to appear as having been received. Sometimes specie certificates, stating that the maker held a sum of specie for the bank, were counted as specie. These were almost invariably false, and they were made to do service for many banks in succession. If specie was actually used, as soon as the bank examiner had seen it, it was hurried into a wagon and taken with fleet horses to another bank where it again did duty as capital. "Gold and silver," say the official chroniclers, "flew about the country like magic; its sound was heard in the depths of the forest, yet, like the wind, one knew not whence it came or whither it was going." Sometimes what seemed to the eye of the examiner to be kegs of specie were really kegs of nails or window-glass with a thin layer of coin on top. The loan of specie to be used in the establishing of banks became a regular and lucrative branch of banking business.

Within one year forty-nine banks were organized, and forty went into operation with a professed capital of \$1,745,000, of which thirty per cent. was claimed to have been paid in in specie. Over \$2,000,000 of irredeemable paper was distributed throughout the State, of which probably not a dollar was based upon bona fide capital paid in for legitimate banking purposes. As was inevitable, there was no public confidence in money of this character. Whoever received it got rid of it as soon as possible. It was always at a great discount with the money of eastern banks, and some of it was rated much higher than the rest. Much of it was never circulated near the places of issue, which were selected often in spots as inaccessible as possible, in order that the bills might not soon return to plague their sponsors. Adventurers from New York and other distant places went into the wilds of the State, located banks, took the entire issue of money, and put it in circulation anywhere but near the place of issue.

The commissioners used all possible vigilance to close up bogus banks, but as fast as they closed them others were started. When a "wild-cat" bank either failed or was put in the hands of a receiver the farmers and laboring people suffered the most severely, as is always the case in such disasters. The average ran its course in about a year and a half. At the end of 1839 there were no fewer than forty-two "wild-cat" banks in the hands of receivers, and only four still doing business. Nearly all the currency of the State was worthless, business was prostrate, values of all kinds had been nearly or quite destroyed. There was no buying or selling of land, and only the bare necessities of life were able to command a market. The banking law was taken before the courts and declared unconstitutional, and the system was abolished, leaving behind it no assets, but boundless ruin.

In summing up the results, Judge Cooley, in language which many modern advocates of cheap money may peruse with profit, says: "Such were the fruits of the experiment of giving equal and practically unlimited rights in banking to everybody who wanted a shorter road to wealth than that trodden by labor and honest industry. The new State, under the bold but inexperienced guidance of its youthful governor, disdaining the lessons of history, had determined to try for itself the experiment of manufacturing money by the printing-press. The condition after the experiment might be compared to a forest after a cyclone; everything was prostrate, and everything was in confusion!... Thereafter wild-cat banking was a byword in the State; but the lessons it taught needed to be learned at some time, and were not likely to be learned except with experience as a teacher. One of its lessons was that neither real estate nor anything else not immediately convertible into money can support the credit of bank currency." This lesson is as applicable to the whole country as it was to Michigan, for even the United States Government is not powerful enough to support the credit of bank currency in real estate or anything else not immediately convertible into money. This is, moreover, the lesson of all human experience.

The Sugar Beet.

Among the things which Napoleon Bonaparte is not remembered for is the establishment of the beet-sugar industry in Europe. It was his encouragement, given while he was the almost absolute ruler of the French empire, which raised the making of sugar from beets from the field of struggling experiment, fitfully engaged in by men of science who were regarded as visionaries, to the practical position which has finally made it a larger and more important business, taking the world through, than the making of cane sugar.

Although the great Napoleon was not the sort of man whom it was ordinarily safe to laugh at, he was ridiculed and caricatured on account of his faith that sugar could be made profitably from beets.

In 1811 the Emperor promised the French people that they should have sugar from beets if he excluded from France the commerce of England, including the sugars of the West Indies. This promise led to the publication of a caricature, in which the Emperor and his little son, the king of Rome, were represented.

The Emperor was shown sitting in his boy's nursery, squeezing a beet root into a cup of coffee. The baby prince sat near him, hard at work sucking a beet root, while the nurse, standing close by, was represented as exclaiming, "Suck it, dear, suck it; your papa says it is sugar!"

This biting sarcasm did not prevent Napoleon from spending several million francs, at a time when his empire was under a tremendous strain of expenditure, in bounties for sugar made from beets, and his sagacity has been vindicated at last by the fact that, within the past five years, the world's yearly production of beet sugar has risen above its production of cane sugar by more than a million tons.

By far the greater part of this beet sugar is raised and consumed in Europe. It is now the sugar ordinarily used there, just as cane sugar is the sort almost universally used in America.

Beet sugar may be bought in certain stores in our eastern cities. To the taste, it cannot be distinguished from the best cane sugar, except by experts, who say it is richer in sweets than most cane sugar.

It is not made from the common red garden beet, but from a white beet—in some varieties verging upon a pink color—which has been developed by cultivation and selection until its juices yield a proportion of from ten to sixteen per cent. of sugar.

Almost a hundred years of experiment and hard work were needed before the cultivation of the beet for sugar became profitable in Europe. No crop in the world requires more painstaking and scientific cultivation to make it a success; and none rebukes easy-going methods more promptly.

The sugar-beet raising, indeed, as practiced in Europe, seems almost a science rather than an industry.

The chemist's work comes in at every turn. He must test the sweetness of the beet, the elements of the soil and the fertilizers used, and watch the successive processes of manufacture. The meteorologist must be consulted regarding conditions of climate as to heat and cold in the growing and ripening season, and the proportion of moisture in the air.

Satisfactory conditions of soil and air and seed being obtained, money must not be spared in the cultivation of the root. The soil should be deep and good to begin with, and fertilizers—not raw, but well and carefully rotted—must be generously applied. Then there should be subsoil cultivation, and a great deal of careful working.

The raising of the seed is a little science in itself. Five years of cultivation of "mother beets," as the beets chosen to furnish seed are called, are required before the seeds are fit to plant. That is to say, successive beets are selected and planted for that length of time, progressing from sweet to sweetest, until the sort of seed is obtained from which will grow a profitable crop of sugar beets.

The first seed-beet in the series is called the "grandmother beet." She is chosen, to begin with, because her juice is found by a chemical test to be the sweetest of the field. Then from among her sweetest progeny is chosen a "mother beet," from that another, and so on down.

One-fourth of the area of soil given to the raising of beets is often devoted to the production of seed; and upwards of thirty-five hundred mother beets are planted to the acre.

French farmers have in many cases succeeded in raising from twenty to thirty tons of sugar beets to the acre, which yield three and even four tons of sugar. At this rate of production, the farmer can afford, as is often done in France and Germany, to put fifty dollars' worth of fertilizer upon a single acre of land in a single year.

Unlike some other expensive crops, the cultivation of beet sugar is very good for the land. A good deal of other produce is raised at the same time; and the quality and quantity of every other crop is greatly raised by the cultivation of the sugar beet. Its benefits are two-fold.

The harvesting of the beets is done just at the height of ripeness, and often after the first frosts have fallen. They are sometimes pulled from the ground by hand labor, but oftener by means of a sort of digging machine drawn by horses, not unlike an ordinary corn cultivator. Then the beets are carefully housed in cellars or silos constructed for the purpose, preparatory to being sent to the manufactory.

At the manufactory they are sliced by machinery, and the juice, in the best factories, is extracted from the slices, not by crushing them, but by a process called "diffusion," in which the sugar is drawn out by soaking them again and again in liquids. This leaves the beets, deprived of their sugar, in a condition to be fed to cattle which are being fattened. The syrup obtained by the diffusion process is boiled down to sugar.

The cultivation of sugar beets has not been generally successful in this country up to the present time, for several reasons. One of these is that we have almost at our very doors the cheaply made cane sugars of tropical countries. Another reason is, that our farmers, as a rule, have not the time or patience to give to a crop the thorough and scientific treatment that the cultivation of sugar beets demands.

But a more important reason still is the fact that the necessary conditions of soil and climate

(Continued on 5th page.)

"Chicken Culture," from a Farmer's Standpoint.

According to promise, I will give you a short sketch of my experience on "chicken culture," from a farmer's standpoint.

After twelve years experience with five different breeds, I have no hesitation in saying, for all purposes, the Light Brahma is the best; and for laying qualities and the table combined, a cross between the Light Brahmas and White Leghorns or Black Spanish. I will give you my reason; I have raised Games, Light and Dark Brahmas, White Leghorns and Black Spanish; the first are good layers and splendid table fowls, but too pugnacious altogether; the Leghorns and Spanish are fine layers, but very tender in combs and liable to get frozen, but when you cross them with the Light Brahma you have an excellent layer of large white eggs, or nearly white, and a fine table fowl as well; they come early to maturity. The Light Brahma makes an excellent mother, will supply you with eggs all winter if properly fed and kept in a moderately warm place; and when the season comes off they will wander all over the farm in search of food.

I raise a great many ducks and turkeys, and invariably set the eggs under Light Brahmas; some of them brought out two lots of ducks and were as fat at the end of the two months as when I set them. I never have any trouble in raising young ducks without a mother. I have had as many as twenty hens sitting at once, and I let them

at noon, every day at noon, feed and water them, and by the time we have our dinner over they are all back on their own nests, when I put a shingle in front of them and keep them there until next day at noon. I always set them on the ground if possible, a little cut hay under the eggs. Duck eggs especially should be sprinkled with water every three or four days, and every day before coming out—tepid water is best. I raised about sixty ducks, forty-five turkeys and sixty chickens this season, and think they averaged about ten to each hen set. Unless you adopt some such plan as I speak of, you cannot raise them successfully, as the other hens are continually laying beside them, or fighting with them and breaking the eggs.

I think if farmers could be induced to go more into poultry raising they would find it not only pleasant but profitable, if they would feed the same amount of grain to twenty or thirty fowls as they do a pig, they would have them fat, and sell them from eight to ten cents a pound. I have taken the first prize on several occasions for turkeys, ducks and fowls, and invariably sold all I had to spare at twelve and a-half cents a pound. Of course, they were fine young turkeys, weighing thirty pounds a pair, dressed ready for the table; ducks, fifteen pounds per pair; and chickens eighteen pounds per pair; all young birds. You can always get ten cents per pound for well fattened birds, and I am sure nothing pays better.

I think I have said enough to convince any farmer that there is money in raising poultry, if they go about it in the right way, and get first class stock to start with. A farmer has not time to attend to poultry as he would like, but his wife and daughters have, and there is nothing more pleasant or profitable than attending to first class poultry.—Farmers Advocate.

Clover as Green Manure.

Plowing under clover is possibly not so common anywhere as it used to be in wheat-growing districts, where a clover fallow neatly turned in June insured a good wheat crop the following year. This was probably always a wasteful practice, as the decaying clover with roots furnished a much larger proportion of nitrogen and available mineral plant food than the fall growth of wheat could use. If the winter was wet, and the land was soaked, a good deal of the nitrates was wasted, while the mineral elements were only protected from loss by becoming insoluble. Thus, though the summer fallow secured for a time large crops, it

prepared the way for the enormous sales of phosphates and commercial fertilizers to replace lost fertility on the lands where this method was longest practiced.

For a long time, while green clover was used as manure for wheat, this grain was the chief money crop of farmers, and therefore even wasteful methods of increasing it did not seem so much out of place. Wheat is no longer the most profitable crop in any locality where manure is considered of much account. On the virgin soil in a few places in the Northwest good wheat crops can be grown every year without manure. But such localities are becoming scarcer with each recurring season. Almost everywhere that nitrogenous manure is required to grow wheat there are other crops to which its application will pay better than it will to wheat. Clover is mainly a nitrogenous manure, though if the soil have mineral fertilizers in unavailable form, decaying clover will make these soluble. Consequently, clover, where it can be used to grow other crops, is more profitable than its use to grow wheat.

The difficulty in using clover is that it needs to get into full blow, which is well toward June, to give its greatest value as green manure, and this is pretty late to leave it and grow a crop on the upturned sod the same season. We know some farmers who sow clover on grain one spring, and the next one last of May or first of June, turn it over and plant on corn or potatoes. For the latter this is often as profitable a use of the clover as could be made. It does not matter that the clover has not yet attained its full size and nutritive value. The potato crop loves moisture. Even green and sappy clover leaves and stalks furnish plenty of that. Besides, the clover fermenting under the furrow soon makes the land as mellow as an ash heap, developing the available nutriment in the soil, so that the potato plants will scarcely any season lack for food or moisture.

If corn is planted on a field of young clover turned under late in May, it is better to apply some manure as top-dressing to be plowed under with the clover. If the manure has been spread on the field late in winter, and the clover has grown through it, the effect will be all the better. It will, as top-dressing, keep the soil moist beneath it and make the plowing less difficult. It will also make more heat and more nitrogen in the soil than will clover alone. The only drawback for corn is that if the clover is allowed to get much growth it makes plowing and planting rather late for this crop. Yet we have seen large crops of corn ripened though planted three or four days after the first of June, on a manured clover sod. The corn sprung into growth at once and made its crop within the shortest possible time after planting. Drilled corn for fodder or ensilage can be grown mature enough if the clover is allowed to get into bloom before plowing under.

In all cases we think where corn or potatoes are planted on an upturned clover sod the piece should be sown with wheat or rye in the fall. There is a considerable amount of soluble plant food developed too late in season for either corn or potatoes to take, and this leads to a growth of weeds late in the season, unless the surface is filled with something better. Those who sow turnips in corn or potato fields know that this hardy plant keeps on growing until severe frost wholly freezes the ground. But it would be better to have something to cover the surface during the winter, and this rye will furnish, even if the land is too valuable to grow this grain, and the green rye is useful only to turn under for manure. It is known that rye gets nothing from the air save carbon, which all plants absorb through their leaves, while clover is believed to have the power of also using atmospheric nitrogen. Yet the rye growing where clover could not save nitrogen in the soil that would otherwise have been wasted.—American Cultivator.

Not Against Nature.

The exodus of the human race from a condition of mental darkness and superstition has been very gradual, and the masses have by no means yet reached the promised land of disillusion. The farmers still live that tell us that they will not compel their cows to "come in" in the fall, because they do not believe in running counter to nature. "The Almighty," say they, "knew best when He set the order of nature, and surely if He made it natural for the cattle to bring forth in the Spring of the year it must be best." There is a prevalent superstition that there is something in the season more than the bare influence of temperature, and this superstition develops in to a sort of fatalism that seems to put a period to all progress.

But the breeder of the dairy cow must awake to the fact that these things are of right under his control, and that it is not only his privilege but his duty to violate this "apparent" order of nature when the violation better serves his purpose. In the first place the Creator never ordered that animals should bring forth their young in April or May or any other particular month, but that they should come in at a time when a certain series of conditions prevailed. That this is true we know by looking at the times and seasons of the Southern Hemisphere.

More heat and cold come in months the opposite of ours. There the warm weather begins in November, and the cold in May, and the cattle, so far from having any superstition about "fixed times" promptly accommodate themselves to the reversed conditions. So we see that, after all, these things in nature have been fixed to accord with the temperature, and that if a man wants to reverse the breeding time of his cows, all he has to do is to in some way reverse the thermal conditions in which the cattle live, and he will be found running with, rather than against, nature.

This is another argument in favor of the perfectly-heated, perfectly-ventilated, perfectly-controlled stable. Every observant Summer dairyman knows that if his cows are out in a cold rain-storm in the Summer it will at once greatly reduce the flow of milk, and that the flow is never recovered till the cows come in fresh again. Is it not reasonable, then, to conclude that cold will have a like effect in the winter on the cows of the winter dairy? Carelessness as to a steady and even temperature is one of the chief factors in the failure charged to winter dairying.—Ex.

Poultry on the Farm.

Extract from paper read at the Farmers' Institute at Minnesota State Fair by Mrs. Ida E. Tilton.

A modern philosopher, being asked when a child's education should begin, replied, "With its grandmother." The history of an egg begins there, too, for eggs from a laying strain have been found quite apt to produce good layers in turn. Fowls need, as it were, educating to lay. Doubtless incubators are successful as to broilers, but the future layer needs a real, live, loving, scratching mother. It is one thing to make a squab, and another to build up a fowl that can stand the wear and tear of producing over a hundred eggs a year, with all their varied elements of yolk, albumen and shell. The incubator-hatched pullet has been supposed to sing:

"I'm homesick and lonely,
And life's but a dream,
I'm a chicken that was born
In a hatching machine.
"Compelled in this cold world
Sadly to roam,
No mother to shelter me,
No place to call home.
"No mother to teach me
To scratch or to cluck,
I hardly can tell whether
I'm a chicken or a duck.
"If a pullet I prove,
I'll sit 'round all day,
And never a bit of an egg
Will I lay."

The western range country is filling up with sheep. Montana has several counties that contain 200,000 to 300,000 sheep each, and they are mainly of pretty good quality. Sales lately have been made at \$4 to \$4.65 for 100 to 118-pound stock.

Wheat Harvested Every Day.

Wheat is harvested every day of the year in some part of the world.

Early in January the farmers of Australia, New Zealand, Chili and the Argentine Republic are getting their harvesting jugs filled, for no Australian farmer would think of harvesting without a little whisky, and by the middle of the month is in full blast.

Upper Egypt and southern India, southern China and Siam follow in February and March; lower Egypt, northern India, Syria, Cyprus, Persia, Asia Minor, Mexico and Cuba in April; Texas, Algeria, central Asia, Brazil, northern China, Japan and Morocco in May; the United States south of Iowa, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and south France in June; New England, Ohio, New York, Upper Canada, Austria, Hungary, southern England, northern France, Switzerland, southern Russia and Germany in July; Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, Lower Canada, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, northern England, Ireland, Poland and central Russia in August; Scotland, Sweden, Norway, northern Russia in October; Peru and South Africa in November, and Burmah in December.

The ocean currents and the elevation above the sea level differently affect the climate of countries in the same latitude, and therefore the harvest differs.

The import duty on wheat in France is 15.90 cents per bushel of 60 pounds; 39.77 cents in Austria-Hungary; 33.20 cents in Germany; 26.61 cents in Italy; 29.62 cents in Portugal; 23.31 cents in Spain, and 18.50 cents in Norway and Sweden. No duty is levied in England, Belgium, Russia, Denmark and the Netherlands.—Rural World.

Use and Beauty.

As the population of the country grows, and after the bare necessities of life are secured, the next thing which people demand is the beautifying of their homes with trees, and shrubs, and plants. As wealth accumulates and the leisure-class multiplies, conservatories and green-houses will be demanded at all the large mansions near towns and cities, and the demand for fine tropical plants will grow year after year. Clubs and societies where flower-loving people meet to hear essays on topics connected with the art of horticulture are centres of good influence, and as new members are attracted they are fired with enthusiasm. Public and private exhibitions, too, are the means of interesting the public, and probably, half the amateurs who have collections of plants have begun to collect them after visiting an exhibition of this kind. Public gardens and parks are also potent means of increasing the love for beautiful plants. Such parks and gardens not only afford rest and recreation to the weary, but they instruct visitors, and many of these will here begin to have a longing for the possession of plants and the pleasant experience of cultivating them.—Garden and Forest.

No. 82 objects to my way of raising early lambs, says a correspondent of the National Stockman. Corn, he thinks, is not good. Sheep are differently constituted from cows or horses. Whole corn and good clover hay make more strength and muscle than any other food. They make fat, which means muscle and strength in a sheep. The more fat you can get on breeding ewes the better. They will get thin by the time the lambs are old enough to sell. Corn and clover hay make the best quality of mutton—superior to any other food. The fat or tallow is white, and that indicates mutton of a good quality. 82's ration is not good. You should not feed sheep ground feed. Whole grain is best, both for ewes raising lambs and for fattening sheep. They do the grinding thoroughly and do not take any toll. Oil meal is not good, on account of making a yellow, soft fat that indicates a poor quality of mutton. I am glad to have objections raised to experiences. It gives an opportunity to explain and give reasons for each one's experience. Saying so don't make it so. It is by discussion we arrive at correct methods.

"A Yard of Roses."

One of the popular paintings at the New York Academy of Design was a yard-long panel of roses. A crowd was always before it. One art critic exclaimed, "Such a bit of nature should belong to all the people—it is too beautiful for one man to hide away."

"The Youth's Companion," of Boston, seized the idea, and expended twenty thousand dollars in reproducing the painting. The result has been a triumph of artistic delicacy and color.

The Companion makes an autumn gift of this copy of the painting to each of its five hundred thousand subscribers. Any others who may subscribe now for the first time, and request it, will receive "The Yard of Roses" without extra charge while the edition lasts.

Besides the gift of this beautiful picture, all new subscribers will receive The Companion free from the time the subscription is received till January 1st, including the Thanksgiving and Christmas Double Numbers, and for a full year from that date. The price of The Companion is \$1.75 a year.

Every family should take this brightest and best of illustrated papers, in addition to its local paper.

What an Old Soldier Says.

Farming would be my delight if I was not an invalid soldier, incapacitated for that or any other occupation. It makes me tired to see and hear great big two-fisted farmers, in perfect health, growing about their lot in life and about the oppression they imagine they suffer, when the truth is they are, or should be, the most independent and happy people on earth. Slovenly farming and wasteful habits, with lack of energy (call it laziness) is more the cause of their imaginary misfortunes than anything else. Farming is a business as much as merchandising or any other occupation, and he who neglects his farm in any way neglects his business. Industry and good management will cure all the imaginary evils farmers are complaining of. Let the farmer educate himself and family; make his home and farm attractive by beautiful surroundings outwardly, and provide the inner circle with good reading matter and musical instruments. In short, do the right thing at the right time, be diligent, be upright and honest in all things; then all the blessings of life and prosperity will be added unto you. Politics will never cure the effects of drouth or a man's laziness or neglect. It is necessary for the farmer, as well as the merchant or any other class of business men, to educate himself and vote his opinions, and it is the truest of wisdom to express these opinions for the greatest good to the greatest number. Supply and demand has and always will regulate the price of any article, and this being a truism, no political legislation will change it.—Capteth, Thayer Co., Neb.

Why should not the farmer who wants to treat himself and his family fairly set, aside a certain sum every year for newspapers and magazines? Both are cheap, and would yield greater returns in profit and pleasure than a like amount invested in any other way. Ten dollars isn't much money to spend for reading matter, yet it will pay for a year's subscription to the local weekly, the ten-page city weekly, a high-class magazine, two farm papers, and a domestic magazine. Three or four dollars more would bring the metropolitan daily, with its wealth, of good things to the reading table. Let some other man take neighbor Smith's heifer, even though it be dirt cheap; then buy a year's supply of printed matter, and give the faithful old almanac a rest.—Industrialist.

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We Guarantee Satisfaction.

Are Farmers' Organizations Necessary or Desirable?

This subject was discussed in Union Grange No. 118, Ontario, at the regular meeting, Aug. 18, 1891. The following is a summary of ideas advanced by its members:

(1) Farmers' organizations are both necessary and desirable, educationally, socially and intellectually. Socially there is no better way of improvement than by frequently meeting together. When a person is hemmed in by business all the time and takes no time for pleasure, is he a social person? If you wish to converse with him on business that particularly affects him financially, he will talk; but for a really good, interesting conversation, he's not there. Then, I say, farmers need to meet together frequently to brush off that coarseness which tends to become naturalized to one who sticks closely to his business without recreation or intermission. Intellectually it is much the same, but deeper. A person may be what you might call a sociable person to converse with upon subjects relating to mere pleasure, but true pleasure comes from thought, the product of a fertile intellect. One person may possess a very fine characteristic, socially, and be far from fineness in many others. Another may be exceedingly sensitive in one or more of these, and lack in this fineness possessed by the first; thus, by coming together, they are both benefited. Now, in the same way we all possess, to a greater or less degree, intelligence—some in one line and some in another more particularly, but all possess minds capable and needful of improvement. Then, I ask, in what way may we better gain this improvement than by coming together as an organization, cultivating the powers of both that and speech, and thereby prepare ourselves that we may be able to agitate our cause more intelligently and effectively.

(2) By coming together in this manner we are able to discuss questions which affect our interests with greater force, and draft resolutions, etc., for the improvement of laws which may not appear to us to be agreeable to our greatest advantages. If we do not come together in this way, how can we have force? One man may see what he thinks a defect, because of a misunderstanding of the facts, and if he does understand them it is with much more difficulty that he is able to get his brother farmers to lend him assistance, even with their names, because of isolation; whereas in an organized body he is able to lay the whole matter before its members as easily as to a single person; hence it is easier to obtain legislation in any direction in this way than single-handed.

(3) We are the great producing class in the land. When we are pinched in any way for any length of time, those who do not feel it are but very few, an example of which we now see in the great depression which has been so general for the last few years. It is exceedingly necessary that we should be organized in a noble body, and stand for a noble cause. Not only is this necessary for our own particular interests, but for the welfare of our country. If we are awake to our best interests we shall come together and interchange ideas, and discuss questions relating to our business with a liberal mind and free heart, willing to teach and be taught, endeavoring with most earnest zeal to find the best way to lighten our burden and enhance our income, to improve the quality of our products and decrease the cost of production. By doing this we shall find that we help ourselves very materially, and improve the conditions of the community in general.

If, when we are in a depressed condition, others feel it so sorely, in like manner they will rise out of depression as we do. Not this

alone, for as we learn to improve our products we increase the demand for them; and as we increase our products, we in like manner increase the wealth of the country. On the other hand, as we decrease the cost of production, we greatly enhance the returns and the more freely money is floated. Hence you see the vast importance of farmers working together. The great work we have to do cannot be done single-handed. The millions of dollars which are possessed by individuals are influenced to circulate to a greater or less extent by our own efforts which tend to improve our products. These are the very people we want to expect to suit with our products, and if we do this we'll be well paid, for they will pay well for a first-class article.

Give the Englishman good butter, cheese and beef, and the American fine mutton, a horse of good size, with handsome style and action, and in return they will pay you a good, handsome price for them.

We may not be able to take a handful right out of the pile of the millionaire, but if we want his pile floated we must pitch every thing we have at it; if we don't, it will not go in a long time, for in our products the germ of excellency must be placed, which, when it reaches him, will create a greater desire for it than his money. When we accomplish this feature we may expect to get some of his pile.

[This is good counsel for members of the Grange everywhere, and better than a class of advice we often hear that leads to murmurings and complaints.—Ed.]

The Farmer Deserves Recognition.

It is absurd to suppose that the Farmers' Alliance was originated without a cause and that it does not express more or less crudely actual grievances of the farming community. The farmer has been too much and too long neglected.

Take, for example, the defect in the postoffice department to which Postmaster General Wagonmaker is now calling attention—namely, the failure of the government to supply the farmer with his mail matter as easily as the city man or even a resident of a large town can get it. There is no more reason why a hundred farmers should travel several miles after their mail than why as many residents of the city or the town should do so. Indeed, the city man has, at any rate, to come down town to his business, while the farmer, in the busy season at least, has not the time nor the horses to spare for the purpose. If the government should take his mail to his door twice or more a week he would at least feel that he was being considered, and was enjoying some of the government privileges that other people enjoy.

The government has done a great deal to encourage the building of railroads, and has thus benefited not only the farmer but the mercantile classes. Had it done something toward improving the common roads also by subsidies and other aid, it would benefit the country and the farmer still more.

The national government cannot, of course, undertake to make good highways of all the cross-roads and lanes in the country, but if it had aided in every state the construction of a few substantial roads the residents would have to improve the rest. The convenience and profit of good roads would thus have been practically demonstrated before the eyes of the farmer, and led him to increase the number of excellent highways at his own expense and for his own benefit. It is not yet too late to do this. The farmers would derive far more advantages from two projects like free mail delivery and excellent highways than from all the wild-goose schemes after which they have been chasing.

In discussing the Alliance in the current number of the Forum,

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, maintains that the farmers have a real grievance; he heartily approves their organization; he had great hopes that it would at first accomplish much good; and he thinks that if the Alliance would remain true to its original purpose it would be a most beneficent organization. But he points out the rise of most destructive tendencies and of narrow ideas since politicians have got hold of it, and he sees the great danger that they will wreck the whole organization.

If, however, they would confine themselves to one or two practical demands, like the free delivery and good roads, securing this aid and favor from the government they would be apt to get them. But they include so many things in their platform; so many absurd and intolerable projects which can never be realized that they throw away the influence they might wield in the legislation of the country. Either political party would be willing and eager to grant their practical demands, but neither can listen to their dreams and chimeras.—Detroit Journal.

Unity of Discussion and Action.

Our Granges scatter too much in their discussions. As often as once a quarter the State Lecturer should furnish the topic for discussion of the Subordinate Granges. For instance, co-operation in buying and selling. This will never be satisfactorily accomplished until Granges have some concerted discussion and action. Then there is the country school question. A Grange discussing this question here and there throughout a state will never accomplish much good. But let each Subordinate Grange throughout the state take hold of the matter at a specified time and then follow it up through the Pomona Grange, and thence to the State Grange, and something worth striving for can be accomplished. Another matter is the reform of our agricultural fairs. There appears to be an almost unanimous desire on the part of the best thinkers among farmers that something should be done in this line, but so long as no united effort is made among the farmers they will continue to be run in the interest of horse jockeys, fakirs and gamblers. But let each Grange take this matter up and, after full discussion, come to some understanding as to what form the desired reforms should take and then, by a united effort upon the part of all, they could be brought about.—F. A. Putnam, Worcester county, Mass.

For Business Reasons.

There comes to us from another state the news that a warrant was issued for the arrest of an individual on a complaint charging him with selling liquor at an agricultural fair without license. Proof to sustain the charge and obtain the conviction of the offender could be had in abundance, and the people expected that the punishment of the guilty one would render such violations of the law less frequent. When the case was about to be called for trial, the attorney for the Commonwealth received a letter signed by some of the officers of the Fair Association, and other prominent citizens, asking him to enter a non pros. When asked the reason for this change of front, and this refusal to appear against the accused, the answer was "For business reasons." Those three words explain why it is that in every community, violators of the law are allowed to go unmolested. Citizens know the law is violators, know full well who is violated are, but refuse to arraign them before the bar of justice, "For business reasons."

The fear of losing the sale of a few pounds of coffee or sugar, or a few yards of muslin, closes the mouths of those who are cognizant of these constant violations of law, and permits the offenders

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at the above low rates. This machine is made after the latest models of the Singer machines, and is a perfect fac simile in shape, ornamentation and appearance. All the parts are made to gauge exactly the same as the Singer, and are constructed of precisely the same materials.

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to go unpunished. It may be said that the attorneys of the Commonwealth should not have listened to this request, but gone on with the prosecution.

He did nothing of the kind, however, "For business reasons" and "for business reasons" it is not likely the matter will be heard of more. May we not find in these three little words a full explanation of some strange happenings in our temples of justice? Are we not in rather bad shape when laws can be violated with impunity and the offenders allowed to go free "for business reasons?" Business reasons have nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of one charged with crime and should never be allowed to influence the actions of the courts.—Farmers Friend.

The unthinking in Chicago, like the unthinking in other large cities, foresaw in the advent of the Columbian Exposition a great boom for the workingmen. But they did not look beneath the surface. The boom arrived on time, but disaster followed closely. Thousands of workmen of various trades flocked to Chicago from all points, in eager search of the money which was to be disbursed.

At the present time the labor market of the Windy City is overstocked, and labor leaders there are strongly protesting against any further influx. When the Exhibition work is at an end Chicago will find herself carrying a lot of workmen for whom there is no work, and the labor organizations will suffer materially.—Exchange.

Missouri Grange.

LaFayette Co., 1891.—Mr. O. W. Ingersoll, Dear Sir: Your Liquid Rubber Paint is an article that speaks for itself, all parties who have used it in this section are well pleased, so this speaks volumes to the merits of your goods. Selling to members of the Order direct, at wholesale prices, the demand for your goods can only be limited by the knowledge of their merits. Fraternally yours, J. M. ARMENTROUT. (See adv. Patron's Paint Works.)

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A POPULAR FAMILY.

JENNIE: "How is it, Kate, that you always seem to 'catch on' to the latest thing? Do what I may, you always seem to get ahead of me."

KATE: "I don't know; I certainly do not make any exertion in that direction. I heard you telling Tommy James last evening how his club made mistakes in playing baseball; you seem to be up on all the latest 'fads,' and know just what to do under all circumstances; you entertain beautifully; and in the last month you have improved so in health, owing, you tell me, to your physical culture exercises. Where do you get all of your information from in this little out-of-the-way place?—for you never go to the city."

KATE: "Why, Jennie, you will make me vain. I have only one source of information, but it is surprising how it meets all wants. I very seldom hear of anything new but what the next few days bring me full information on the subject. Magic? No! Magazine! And a great treasure it is to us all, for it really furnishes the reading for the whole household: father has given up his magazine that he has taken for years, as he says this one gives more and better information on the subjects of the day; and mother says that it is that makes her such a famous housekeeper. In fact, we all agree that it is the only really FAMILY magazine published, as we have sent for samples of all of them, and find that one is all for men, another all for women, and another for children only, while this one suits every one of us; so we only need to take one instead of several, and that is where the economy comes in, for it is only \$2.00 a year. Perhaps you think I am too lavish in my praise; but I will let you see ours, or, better still, send 10 cents to the publisher, W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th Street, New York, for a sample copy, and I shall always consider that I have done you a great favor; and may be you will be cutting us out, as you say we have the reputation of being the best informed family in town. If that be so, it is Demorest's Family Magazine that does it."

without any teacher; you came to the rescue when Miss Lafarge deserted her Debartee class so suddenly, and certainly we are all improving in grace under your instruction; I heard you telling Tommy James last evening how his club made mistakes in playing baseball; you seem to be up on all the latest 'fads,' and know just what to do under all circumstances; you entertain beautifully; and in the last month you have improved so in health, owing, you tell me, to your physical culture exercises. Where do you get all of your information from in this little out-of-the-way place?—for you never go to the city."

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THE GRANGE VISITOR.

Published on the 1st and 15th of every month.

AT 50 CENTS PER ANNUM.

A. C. GLIDDEN, Editor and Manager,
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Money Order or Draft.Entered at the Post-Office at Paw Paw, Mich., as
Second Class Matter.

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

Farmers' Institutes and Their Dates.

The list of Institutes for the winter is, with one exception, completed. They are arranged, for convenience of attendance, in series of four each, in contiguous territory, to occupy a week, the first beginning on Monday evening and closing on Tuesday evening; the second beginning on Tuesday evening and closing Wednesday evening, and so on, the last one closing on Friday evening.

One half the force from the College will open the Institutes, leaving the next day to open the second, while the other half comes on to be in attendance until the close. In this way the funds appropriated by the State for Institute work are more economically expended and the labor divided equally and expended effectively.

The first series begins January 18th, at Wayland, in Allegan Co., and is followed by Howard City, Reed City and Harbor Springs. The second series will be held on the same dates, and are located at Clio, Lapeer, Mayville and Abbottsford.

The third series include the following places and will be held the week beginning January 25th: Nashville, Grattan, Ionia and St. Johns.

The fourth series will begin February 1st, and include Sherwood, in Branch county, Carey, Cass county, and Sturgis—the fourth not yet located, but is open for applications, which should be within 18 to 25 miles from one of the places named.

The fifth series will open Feb. 8th, at or in the vicinity of Hillsdale; then Church Corners, Bellville and Bell Branch—the last two in Wayne county.

The preliminary arrangements of the second series will be under the direction of Prof. E. A. Burnett, of the College; the third under the direction of P. G. Holden, also of the College, and the first, fourth and fifth series will be arranged by the editor of this paper. All communications from these places should be addressed to the respective managers, who will select the addresses to be presented from the College, and help to make the program. Notices will be sent to the authorized party at each place, when the manager will meet the citizens to arrange the preliminaries.

Threshing Corn.

On Monday, the 2d of this month, the man on our home

farm finished threshing about 4 acres of corn in the shock, and run all the stalks grown on 25 acres through the machine. All is completely stored in the barn in the finest shape for feeding out. The fodder now occupies less than half the space it would in the bundle, and the unpleasant task of handling in the mangers is all done away with. Everything is shredded into strips, and much more will be eaten by stock than could be expected under usual conditions of feeding stalks. The refuse left in the mangers makes excellent bedding for the animals, and is a better absorbent than straw.

The difference between the fodder housed dry, as it is, and that stacked or standing through a three days' rain, such as we have just experienced, is so manifestly in favor of threshing, and threshing early, that every farmer can appreciate it.

It took about 6½ hours to run the crop through the thresher, at a cost of \$1.25 per hour for the outfit and three men. The cost to have run the whole 25 acres through, unhusked, would not have exceeded one-third more, and in a favorable season like this, is the most expeditious and cheapest method of securing the corn crop.

Grange and Alliance in Texas.

The Master of Texas State Grange, John B. Long, has made a proposition to Evan Jones, President of the State Alliance, to argue the sub-treasury plans which the Alliance favors and approves, in the Texas Farmer and in Southern Mercury, the respective organs of the Grange and Alliance. We append an extract from the letter of Master Long and an extract from the reply by President Jones:

"In consequence of the existing difference between the Alliance and Grange on the sub-treasury question, and the facts before stated, and the belief that it can only be settled by due deliberation on the part of the people, I take the privilege of suggesting that the question be discussed through the Southern Mercury and Texas Farmer, both papers agreeing to publish in full both sides. This strikes me as the best means and only method whereby the least friction may be had, and yet the merits claimed, and the demerits offered, may be duly represented."—John B. Long.

Reply of President Jones:

"In view of the fact that the State Grange has, in its official capacity, denounced the principles of the sub treasury plan, and the Farmers' State Alliance of Texas has unanimously endorsed it, I, as the executive head of the Farmers' Alliance in Texas, in my humble opinion would be recreant to the trust confided in me if I should attempt to form any combination that will in the least compromise the organization. Consequently, I am under the unpleasant necessity of declining your proposition."—Evan Jones.

The concluding paragraphs of the editorial comment in Texas Farmer are as follows:

Not to worry the reader, the status of the open letters is this: Master Long challenged the Alliance for a discussion, willing for members of the Grange to be subjected to the tremendous logic of sub-treasury advocates. President Jones and the Mercury crowd decline because they dare not subject the unposted people who are following them to the light of truth and facts which the Grange can throw upon their schemes and schemers.

It is a square backdown of which men with less gall would be ashamed.

The people at large, however, will understand it.

An Ohio lady was so frightened by a snake that her glossy black hair turned white as snow. It was soon returned to its original color by Hall's Hair Renewer.

Our readers scarcely comprehend the disadvantage such a paper as the VISITOR labors under in striving to increase its circulation. Class papers have necessarily a limited share of the population upon which to draw for their support. They are restricted to the individuals whom the paper is designed to aid, and cannot hope for a large circulation outside of this class. It is, therefore, the more the duty of those directly interested to aid in its extension into new homes, where its principles and precepts can be utilized for good. How many of our readers appreciate this condition? How many speak a good word for the VISITOR to persons who would be likely to subscribe? We are glad to say many do; we frequently receive a dollar for two names—one a renewal, and the other a new subscriber, solicited to make the sending the money convenient. A dollar bill in a letter has a smiling countenance for the editor, for it means almost invariably one new reader for the paper. Look at the date on your VISITOR and see if it is not about time to ask your neighbor to subscribe so as to send the money along with your renewal.

The reports from Pomona Grange meetings are uniformly cheerful and, frequently, enthusiastic. What becomes of the papers read at these meetings? The best writers are the most modest, and need urging to send their productions to the VISITOR for publication. Lecturers ought to make urgent demands for these gems that have wasted their sweetness, except for a favored few. There are budding Bancrofts and embryo Emersons in every Pomona Grange, to say nothing of the mature writers of both sexes. We want to reproduce two or three in every issue and give the authors a wider hearing.

We should like to meet a large delegation of visiting members at the State Grange, to convene in Lansing on December 8th. This session will furnish opportunity for those who have never visited the Capitol to look it over. The janitors are an obliging set of men, and offer their services freely to visitors who desire to look the building over. The sessions are usually very interesting and the occasion is a good one to form new acquaintances and to cement old ones. Take a few days' vacation and see what is done and how they do it.

What do our readers think about free mail delivery in the country? Isn't it better than a reduction of letter postage to a penny? There may be near-by farmers who would prefer to get their mail from the office on the arrival of every mail, but to the distant homes it would be a boon—as much for the facility of sending letters as for receiving them, and such will all doubtless favor it. A thorough discussion of the matter in every Grange would disclose the wishes of rural people generally.

The Lansing State Journal copied our article on "Educational Qualification for Voters," published in the last number of the VISITOR, endorsed the arguments and used it as a text for some excellent reasoning in favor of such a qualification.

We hope the Granges will still further discuss the matter and work up such a sentiment in its favor as shall compel some action by Congress to restrain ignorance and incapacity from the exercise of so important a func-

tion as voting without the power to appreciate its value.

Paw Paw Grange has already been divided into eight sections, each to furnish a program in order as numbered. Meetings are held every Friday evening, and our friends from abroad may expect something worth listening to should they chance to knock at the gate on any Friday evening during the winter.

We should like to get the names of all the representatives to the State Grange before the next issue, and shall keep the present report in type, and make the corrections and fill up the blanks as fast as received.

The Van Dyne House in Lansing will accommodate representatives to the State Grange at the rate of \$1.00 per day, as usual. It has been VISITOR headquarters for several years, and is a home-like, quiet place for farmers.

J. J. Woodman and wife are in attendance at the National Grange in Springfield, O., starting on Monday last. We shall be able to gather some sparks from this flame for our next issue.

A Rally Day.

Master's Office, Michigan State Grange: We heartily commend the suggestions of the Lecturer of the State Grange and the editor of this paper to make Dec. 4th a great rallying day to every member of the Grange in Michigan.

It is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Order. Printed or written invitations should be sent every person who has once been a member, within reach of a live Grange, whether of that jurisdiction or in the district or a dormant or dead Grange. Keep alive Grange faith. Show what the Grange has done and is doing. Invite them to come back. If a strong Grange is near a weak one, join forces, perhaps.

Put on the program those persons who ought to be developed, not the time-worn servers who are always ready to talk any way. Debate *live* subjects. Let us move forward solidly for a missionary rally; a day which shall set in motion the Grange wheels all over the State for the winter. Let us aim for new members added to our lists; old members brought in; ourselves re-enthused for the work; and subscriptions procured for the VISITOR.

A general fault in our work is that program-work is too often deferred until the new officers are elected and installed. By the time they are fitted to their duties the season is well under way and several valuable meetings lost to all but routine work. This should be avoided by a foresighted action taken now.

THOS. MARS, Master.

JENNIE BUELL.

Sec'y State Grange.

Marcellus, Nov. 6, 91—Ed. VISITOR: Perhaps there are others, like myself, sometimes at a loss for topics for programs. Certainly I often see topics that are enough to kill interest, before they are even introduced. In working up a general rally day on Dec. 4th, will it not be convenient for you to suggest some subjects that may serve program-makers a good turn? I know it will not be difficult, from your outlook, to do so and I, individually, would be grateful, to say the least. I enclose a few subjects suggested, or culled, mainly from late periodicals, that you can insert in a list, if you approve my plan. Sincerely,

JENNIE BUELL.

Following is the list of subjects referred to:
Use and Abuse of Hobbies.
Science in Agriculture.
Cremation.
An Ideal Kitchen.
The Pro and Con of the Church Supper, Bazar and Fair.
Borrowing.
Free Delivery of Mail in the Country.

To which is added the following:

Athletics in Housekeeping.
A Restricted Ballot.
Arbitration.

Market Report and Indications.

Since my last review of the stock market prices have been disheartening to sellers. Drouth in several stock-growing states caused stock to be thrown on the market that butchers could not use nor feeders buy, and prices declined. Some days in Chicago receipts of prime cattle were not enough to establish a scale of prices, but every day saw receipts of common too great for that market. Since the rains receipts show slight falling off, and commission men hope to clear the yards of stale stock.

Cattle weighing 1100 to 1200 lbs in good flesh have been selling for \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt. These cattle bought by feeders cannot fail of good results. Prices ranged Nov. 11, from \$1.00 per cwt. up to \$6.05 for good, prime steers, weighing 1540 lbs. Prices for hogs range about the same, as a corresponding time one and two years ago. Receipts for year at Chicago are 560,063 head greater for the first ten months of '91 than corresponding time of '90, but decrease of receipts at other points more than counterbalance, and hogs at Chicago run 18 lbs. lighter than at same time in 1890. Hog products show decrease of 49,977,000 lbs. compared with year ago. Receipts of sheep at Chicago for Oct., 1891, were 191,473 head as against 219,107 head corresponding month of 1890, a decrease of 27,664 head. Shipments show a decrease of 50,991 head; this caused an oversupply, and prices have ruled low. Prices, as compared with a year ago show fat sheep higher while common kinds are lower.

E. A. WILDEY.

The fiftieth quarterly meeting of the Farmers' Association of Antwerp and Paw Paw will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Young, Thursday, Dec. 3, 1891, with program as follows:

10:00 a. m.—Arrival and social greeting.

11:00—Inspection of farm and buildings.

12:00 m.—Dinner.

1:30 p. m.—Call to order.

In answer to roll call: Is arbitration of differences practical? Yes or no; and if you please, why?

Music.

Paper—E. B. Welch.

Discussion.

Paper—Health—Mrs. R. Morrison.

Discussion.

Music.

Paper—English Farm Practice—G. E. Breck.

Discussion.

B. G. BUELL, Pres.

A. M. GOULD, Sec'y.

Michigan State Horticultural Society.

The State Horticultural society will meet with the Eaton county society at Eaton Rapids, December 1, 2 and 3, '91. Free entertainment will be provided for all who attend. Papers upon various horticultural topics will be read by T. T. Lyon, President of the State society; Hon. J. M. Samuels, Chief of Division of Horticulture of the World's Fair; Prof. L. R. Taft, of Michigan Agricultural College; W. A. Taylor, acting pomologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture; S. D. Willard, of Geneva, N. Y.; C. J. Monroe, of South Haven; A. C. Glidden, of Paw Paw; J. N. Stearns, of Kalamazoo; R. J. Corvill, of Jonesville; R. Morrill, of Benton Harbor; Jas. F. Taylor, of Douglas, and others.

For full program or other information, address

EDWY C. REID, Sec'y,
Allegan, Mich.

Much is said now-a-days about tonics for men, tonics for horses, and every other species of domesticated stock, but the idea is based upon false premises and an abbreviated idea of the animal economy. If a man or an animal of any other description is "off his feed," a tonic to stimulate an appetite is deemed necessary, whilst nature exhibits the very opposite. From the stomach comes nine-tenths of the disorders incident to man and beast, and a rest given to that important organ is evidently what is called for when one is off his feed. At such a time, then, dispense with your stimulating tonics, give tired nature the rest it demands, and recuperation will respond much more readily and infinitely more effectively.

(From 1st page.)

have not been observed. According to the statements published by the Department of Agriculture, the sugar beet is at home, and able to do its best, only in a region which has a mean temperature of seventy degrees Fah. for three months of summer.

Such a summer temperature is found in a belt of country lying one hundred miles on each side of New York City, running up the Hudson to Albany, thence westward through Cleveland, Chicago and St. Paul, thence southward and westward through Colorado and New Mexico to the Pacific coast, and along that coast to Oregon and Washington. In this belt there is an immense and fruitful region, but not all the territory within it is suited to raising the sugar beet, because the rainfall is in much of it either insufficient or not even enough; but there is, too, a good deal of country outside the belt where, owing to local differences in the climate, the right conditions for the sugar beet will be found.

American farmers, when they introduce the cultivation of the sugar beet in good earnest, will have the benefit of all the costly experience of the Old World. If they avail themselves of the assistance of science, they may surpass the products of the Old World in this respect as much as they have done in many other respects.

They will have, however, a hard task to surpass the thorough methods of the European cultivator. A single fact well illustrates the methods of the Old World farmer, who looks for his profits to his own efforts more than to nature's friendly aid:

The French government, being in need of added revenue, and having already taxed the process of manufacturing sugar from beets, placed a tax upon the beet itself. The farmers, finding that to raise more beets meant more taxation, set about getting more sugar without increasing the number of beets.

By heightening their cultivation, they succeeded in greatly increasing the richness of the Brabant beet, which was their favorite variety, thus turning an oppressive government edict into an advantage.

In the operations of the French farmer and gardener, indeed, nature seems to play a small part compared with man's efforts. The tenant gardener of the region about Paris generally brings with him, when he hires a piece of ground, all the soil that he uses, and when he gives up his land, he takes the soil away with him. —J. E. Chamberlin, in Youth's Companion.

General Notice.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Nov. 9, 1891.

Following are the names of Representatives to the State Grange, Dec. 8, 1891, so far as reported to me:

Allegan, 3.
Antrim, 1—Richard Knight.
Barry, 2.
Berrien, 3—W. H. Cook, Erasmus Murphy, T. J. Crandall.
Branch, 2.
Calhoun, 1—E. C. Manchester.
Cass, 1—Mrs. Flora Moore.
Crawford, 1.
Charlevoix, 1—Wm. Clark.
Clinton, 2—Varney Pierce, Jas. Andrus.
Eaton, 1—C. E. Chappell.
Genesee, 1—Brunson Turner.
Grand Traverse, 1.
Gratiot, 1—L. J. Dean.
Hillsdale, 3.
Huron, 1.
Ingham, 1.
Ionia, 2.
Jackson, 1.
Kalamazoo, 1—Hiram E. Taylor.
Kent, 3—Jno. Preston, Edward Campau, L. A. Elkins.
Lapeer, 1.
Lenawee, 2—A. C. Manchester, J. O. Maxwell.
Livingston, 1.
Macomb, 1.
Manistee, 1—J. H. Reed.
Mecosta, 1—Rob't Dickson.
Montcalm, 1.
Muskegon, 1—Tom. F. Rogers.
Newaygo, 1—John Rosewarke.
Oceana, 1.
Oakland, 2—C. W. Button, E. J. Biglow.

Ottawa, 1—Hiram B. Knowlton.
Otsego, 1.
St. Clair—Paschal Lamb.
St. Joseph, 1—John Walz.
Saginaw, 1—Geo. W. Edwards.
Sanilac, 1—Jesse Fors.
Shiawassee, 1.
Tuscola, 1.
Van Buren, 2—B. F. Warner.
Washtenaw, 1.
Wayne, 1.
Wexford, 1.

POMONA OR COUNTY GRANGES.

Calhoun—Mrs. Perry Mayo.
Oakland—E. S. Covert.
Lapeer—Hoel Palmer.

Grattan Grange No. 170.

No. Aunt Kate is not dead; neither is Grattan Grange; yet we do not possess the power and energy of our younger days, but our faith in the principles of our Order remaineth the same. It is true that the heads of many of us have become frosted with age, but we are not ready to lay down our implements until we must, so we keep doing a little in the Grange, and elsewhere, when opportunity offers. Our motto is: "Wear out, rather than rust out."

Now, a few words to our brothers and sisters:

Are we doing what we can to sustain the Grange Visitor? and do we contribute to its columns as it was designed we should? We have said repeatedly, "Why is it that our brothers and sisters neglect writing for our beloved Visitor?" Can it be for lack of time or disposition that we do not write? Perhaps some of you are, like myself, getting too old, and not quite up to the times in a literary point of view. Be that as it may, we know there are a host of able writers in our ranks who should deem it a privilege, and a duty also, to assist in making the Visitor one of the best Grange papers published. We do not want our worthy editor to think we are dissatisfied with his management, for we think he publishes an excellent paper and one that should interest every thinking farmer in our land. We like his plain, outspoken ways in dealing with important questions, and all that, but it occurs to me that if our brothers and sisters could be induced to write more for the Visitor it would create more of a fraternal feeling in our Order than now seems to exist. I do not expect to write much, but just often enough to let you know I am alive.

We have made these few suggestions in good faith and for the good of the Order.

Yours, fraternally,

AUNT KATE.

[We are pleased to welcome "Aunt Kate" again to our columns. She has long been absent, but we are glad to learn that her faith in the Grange has not waned or her zeal for its labors lessened. Her letter is, as her letters ever were, full of lively interest and encouragement. We trust she will come more frequently in the future, and that her coming may induce others to follow her example, that our paper may abound in cheery, helpful notes from our patrons.—Ed.]

Branch County Pomona Grange.

Branch Co. Pomona Grange met with Gilead Grange on the 5th of November. The weather was fine and there was a fair attendance. The reports from subordinate Granges were encouraging. All seemed to have the same encouraging hope for the future. A baby show was the principal attraction of the afternoon session. The productiveness of Gilead soil is well known, but 1891 exceeds all former years in its crop of babies. It is reported on good authority that nineteen such residents may be counted within a few miles of Gilead Grange Hall. The babies and their mammas (and such other small children as could be secured for the occasion) were arranged in tableau form at one end of the hall. When the curtain was drawn remarks were in order, and ex-Gov. Luce being called out, commenced by saying "Now, children, I want you to keep still." Then, turning to the audience, he said, "I have no control over any of these children except one grand-son. He has been under the instruction of his grand-father until he can be depended upon for the most im-

plicit obedience." The remark was made particularly enjoyable from the fact that the grand-son referred to, a youngster of perhaps three summers, was at that moment clapping his hands and stamping his feet and otherwise making very boisterous demonstrations on his own account.

The exercises of the afternoon were of the usual character, consisting of reading, singing, recitations, etc.

A. L. Smith read a paper entitled "Thought." He dwelt largely on the intimate relations existing between thought and action.

Mrs. E. A. Horton read a paper entitled "The Family." She confined her paper mainly to the Grange family. She deplored the loss of two members of the Grange family of Branch county, and inquired of the audience if it would not be well to try to reclaim them.

Altogether it was one of the most enjoyable meetings of the season, and we came away very strongly impressed with the public spirit of Gilead Grange.

O. A. V.

Woman's Work at the Columbian Exposition.

HILLSDALE, Nov. 4, 1891.

To the Women of Michigan:

As members of the Michigan Board of World's Fair Managers, it becomes our pleasant duty to extend greeting to the women of our state.

To us has been assigned the important task of collecting an exhibit of the work of the women of Michigan, and we have considered it advisable to address you at this early date, stating briefly what we wish to do, and earnestly inviting your co-operation in the work which we have undertaken. Encouraged by your warm sympathy and intelligent aid, we will go forward sure of success; without it our best efforts will prove unavailing.

For the first time in American history, the United States government has given the women of its broad domain official recognition and financial aid. Our state government has been no less liberal, thereby according us every opportunity for fair and just representation at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.

Let us recognize and improve this magnificent opportunity, remembering also that the day is approaching when the religious, moral, social, industrial and intellectual status of the women of Michigan will be arrayed in comparison with the corresponding status of the women of the world, and particularly with the women of every state and territory in the Union. It therefore becomes us at this time to unite the forces of hand, heart and brain, and with one accord move forward in harmonious and diligent action.

At the Columbian Exposition we desire to exhibit first-class specimens of the skill, ingenuity and patient industry of the women of our state.

Already women are asking the question, "What shall we do for the World's Fair?" Let us prepare the best samples of our work, in whatever line we excel, never forgetting that it is the excellent quality of these samples, and not the quantity, by which we will be judged.

The exhibits of our work in '93 will not be assigned a separate place. They will stand side by side with similar articles from all parts of the world, not in comparison with the work of women only, but with the work of men also. We are not striving to compete with men, but rather to prove our ability for intelligent co-operation with them in the high standard of excellence which their work has attained.

In order to promote the interests of bread-winning women, and to encourage them to new and larger fields of operation, it becomes necessary to make more generally known the various lines of industry in which women may find congenial and profitable employment.

With this grand purpose in view, the World's Columbian Commission agree that every manufactured article placed on exhibition shall bear some device indicating woman's share in its production.

The chief of the Bureau of Installation has caused to be printed

on all entry blanks furnished proposed exhibitors, this question: "Was this article produced wholly or in part by the work of women?" An act of Congress provides that an affirmative answer to this question entitles us to one or more women on "All committees authorized to award prizes for exhibits which may be produced wholly or in part by female labor."

A careful examination into the classification adopted by the National Commission reveals the fact that there are few departments into which woman's labor does not enter. Herein lies the grand opportunity for all women engaged in the industries and arts, since much of their work which has hitherto been obscure will be brought into prominence and obtain the recognition it merits.

It is important that every industry carried on by women in the state be represented; also, that we secure fine specimens of all manufactured articles in the production of which woman's labor has contributed either a great or small share. We therefore earnestly request all manufacturers to give the women in their employ every possible opportunity for the exercise of originality and artistic skill in the production of fine articles for the Michigan Exhibit.

It is also desirable to present at the Columbian Exposition statistics that will give evidence of woman's influence in the mental and moral advancement of our state, and to exhibit such objects as will serve to illustrate her share in the development of its natural and material welfare.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without an appeal to rich women for the substantial aid and encouragement they may render poor women of skill and industry who, in many instances, will not be able to furnish suitable material wherewith to embody beautiful specimens of their genius and art.

We realize the importance of placing ourselves in communication with women who are working in unusual lines. We desire to encourage originality, and cordially invite correspondence with women who contemplate the preparation of exhibits; also with societies and organizations of women, asking the helpful aid of their suggestions in regard to the best methods of advancing the interests of their particular line.

Our close proximity to Chicago, and the anticipated reduction of railroad rates, will enable us to make frequent visits to the World's Fair, and in order to derive benefit from these visits it is essential that we approach this great school of learning as interested and intelligent observers.

For this reason we heartily endorse the recommendation of the National Board of Lady Managers in regard to the formation of classes throughout the state for the study of American history and of such of the arts and sciences as will prepare us for a clearer conception and a better understanding of the inventions and products which we will see and have an opportunity to investigate.

Our grand army of women teachers will be quick to comprehend the great pleasure and profit which their pupils will derive from frequent talks on National and World's Fair topics, thus preparing them, in accordance with their years, to understand something of the splendid panorama in which they will see the nations of the world as living actors.

The organization of local committees, which will soon be effected in every section of the state, will prepare us for systematic work.

The importance of these local committees, and the responsibilities assumed by the women appointed to preside over the same, is apparent.

They are the medium through which must be disseminated in every city, town, village and community all essential information relative to Woman's Work at the Columbian Exposition.

They are also the channels through which we must go in search of that all important factor, individual effort, and upon individual effort a creditable ex-

hibit of the work of the women of Michigan depends.

Very respectfully,

MRS. JULIA A. POND,
Hillsdale, Mich.
MRS. J. S. VALENTINE,
Lansing, Mich.

Rain-Making Humbug.

Secretary Rusk says in his annual report that he has no data at hand which justify him in expressing any conclusions as to the rain-making experiments. Nevertheless, there are some apparently trustworthy data at hand which demonstrate the utter failure of these experiments. Worse still, there is evidence tending to show that Gen. Dryenforth is a charlatan, and that his operations have up to date been pure humbug. The Texas Farm and Ranch has been devoting some attention to the Dryenforth experiments. It has had a representative on the scene of several of the operations, and has been at the pains to investigate the character and extent of the alleged successes in rain-making. It appears that the time chosen for the experiments was exceptionally favorable. The period from July 20 to Sept. 20, says the Farm and Ranch, is the rainy season. During this season there are frequent local rains, generally light showers, though there is occasionally a heavy downpour. Having selected this advantageous period for the inauguration of the experiments, the results which followed are exactly what might have been expected. In some instances rain fell subsequent to the Dryenforth operations; in others it did not. Every successful case was a mere coincidence, as one striking example will show. At San Diego, after seventy hours' "bombardment," a norther set in, followed by light rain. "This norther," says the Farm and Ranch, "can be traced back far beyond the limit of any influence claimed by the most cranky advocate of the concussion theory. This wind came down from the Rockies the 16th, passed over Omaha the 17th and reached San Diego and the coast between 4 and 5 o'clock a. m. on the 18th." There are numerous cases in which rain fell 50 or 100 miles from the point of operation, and copious showers often refreshed the country without any inducement whatever.

In several instances the rains which General Dryenforth claimed to have produced were predicted from six to twelve hours in advance by the government weather bureau, a circumstance which leads to the suspicion that the general took pains to be forewarned after being forewarned. The accounts given by the Farm and Ranch of the operations of this scientific crank are pretty conclusive of his total failure to produce rain in any quantity. His selection of the rainy season as the period of experimentation evidences either ignorance of the local climatic conditions or a duplicity which deserves the severest rebuke.

The whole Dryenforth expedition has been a pseudo-scientific farce of the most ridiculous pretensions. Its apparatus is defective and constantly getting out of order, and the whole outfit of kites, balloons, mortars, dynamite and gasses, is absurd to a degree. General Dryenforth has made the most extravagant claims regarding his successes—claims which contradict themselves and prove his failure in nearly every instance. Secretary Rusk should call in his man Dryenforth and his rain-making machinery. The combination would pay better in a dime museum than in the government service.—Detroit Tribune.

Both air and water abound in microbes, or germs of disease, ready to infect the debilitated system. To impart that strength and vigor necessary to resist the effect of these pernicious atoms, no tonic blood-purifier equals Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Peach Marmalade.

Peel, stone and weigh the fruit; heat slowly to draw out the juice; stir often. Boil three-quarters of an hour, then add three-fourths pound sugar for each pound of fruit; the juice of one lemon for each three pounds of fruit. Put in one-half teacup of water and boil ten minutes. A chopped pineapple can be added if wished.

Ladies' Department.

An Autumn Day.

O, autumn day, you are so fair,
With peace in earth and sky and air,
It seems the best life of the year
That is outspread about me here—
Like a full draft of rarest wine,
Rich with the life-blood of the vine.

Sweet autumn day! I see afar
The blue peaks where the mountains are;
Like something born of vaguest dreams
The far-off hills' high summit seems,
Wrapped round with haze of purple tint,
Through which the golden sunbeams glint.

The sounds of life are faint and few;
A brown thrush flies athwart the blue
Of this most fair autumnal sky.
And some late bees drone slowly by;
And from afar, as echoes come,
I hear a partridge beat his drum.

The torches of the Golden Rod
Light up a leaf-besprinkled sod,
And purple asters, shy as sweet,
Are blowing at the sumach's feet.
O, world, you are most fair to-day
With beauty whispering of decay.

O, autumn day, if it might be
That you could tarry here with me—
If I could drink your royal wine
Of air and sun, a draft divine—
If I could keep you in my hold—
I think I never should grow old.

—Eben E. Rexford, in *Vick's Magazine*.

Sunset.

The golden gates of day in quiet close
After the king has passed, and fold on fold
His crimson banners are together rolled,
And laid away. The valley of repose
Is hid to which the stately monarch goes;
He spreads his couch beyond the mountains old,
Wrapped in the drapery of living gold,
And leaves the night to us, which darker grows.

At such a time, how beauty as a queen
Lingers among the arches of the west,
And nations look enchanted on the scene
And praise the vesper star upon her breast;
Age seeks its pillow, childhood falls asleep—
Hush! hush, O world! a night-long silence keep.

Woman's Influence in the World.

[Essay read by Mrs. H. G. Holt, at a meeting of Kent Pomona Grange, held at Rockford, Oct. 14, 1891.]

What is influence? Webster says that "influence is to control or move by hidden but efficacious power, physical or moral; to affect by gentle action; to exert an influence upon; to move or persuade, to lead or direct."

Ever since our first parents lived in the Garden of Eden, woman's influence, as well as man's, has come down through the ages and made the world what it is to-day.

We have been taught to believe that in one instance, at least, the influence of our Mother Eve was for evil, which has been as far-reaching as the waves of the ocean.

From the history of the past, and our knowledge of the present, we are certain that influence in the wrong direction is as powerful as in the right; but to-day we will consider only some of the opportunities that women have for good in the world. In doing so, we will occasionally glance at a few of the names that shine like stars on the pages of history.

A woman of extraordinary nerve and piety was born in Ireland in 1734. She early came under the influence of Wesley and his followers, the settlement in which she resided forming some of the strongest Methodist societies in the kingdom. In 1860 she emigrated, with her husband and others, to New York. Here they appear to have lapsed for a period from their Wesleyan usages; but this good woman, whose name was Barbara Heck, recalled them to a sense of their duty, and gathered a little congregation; nor did she relax in her exertions till she saw the famous old John Street M. E. church erected, and witnessed its dedication in October, 1768. When the Wesleyan preachers arrived to take charge of the John St. society and the edifice, which was the first of its denomination in America, she removed with her friends to Northern New York, where they founded several Methodist societies. As their efforts were crowned with the most triumphant success, they removed to Upper Canada, where they settled finally, and founded their denomination upon a sure and certain basis. In 1804, having finished her good work, this noble woman laid down the cross to take up the crown, in the 70th year of her age. Barbara Heck is called the "Foundress of American Methodism."

For loyalty and bravery, where can be found a more brilliant example than Joan of Arc, who, at the age of 17, placed herself at the head of the French troops and inspired them with such ardor and enthusiasm that they gained several important victories? This young girl became the dread of

the previously triumphant English, and compelled them to raise the siege of Orleans. But as most of you are doubtless familiar with the story of her life and death, we will recall for a moment the noble self-sacrifice of another sister, equally as brave, but who, instead of leading the troops followed in the rear, as a Sister of Mercy.

Brave Florence Nightingale! The first of a long line of noble women who have left home and friends to minister to the needs of the sick and wounded soldiers. Who can estimate the results of such labor and devotion?

There are some names of our American sisters that bring with them suggestions of lofty thoughts, inspiring words and noble actions. Prominent among them is that of Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. As an organizer, she possesses rare ability, which was brought into action by the civil war. She did excellent work in the Sanitary Commission, both in the field and in the northern cities. She is an eloquent speaker, and an able writer on temperance, woman suffrage, and other social questions.

Miss Maria Mitchell, for many years Professor of Astronomy in Vassar college, New York, was a famous astronomer and teacher, and distinguished herself not only by solid attainments but by every social virtue.

Julia Ward Howe is a woman of fine culture, an authoress and poetess, and has been for several years President of the Association for the Advancement of Women.

Not time alone, but eternity, will tell of the good done by the noble band of Christian Temperance Women, with Francis E. Willard at the head. Although they have been laughed at and despised by many, and denounced as fanatics, there is no question but that many valuable lives have been saved from moral wreck and ruin, to say nothing of the homes that have been rescued from poverty and degradation through their influence. Miss Willard resigned the position of Dean of the North-western University to become President of the W. C. T. U., and is one of the most active and successful orators on the subject of temperance.

American women have reason to be proud of such leaders, and of the position they have obtained in scientific, literary or philanthropic pursuits.

Our minister preached a temperance sermon last Sunday evening, in which he related an incident which had come under his own personal observation. A young man of his acquaintance, who lived in Indianapolis, was a drunkard. He came home intoxicated one night, as usual, and sat down in a chair. His mother came to him and, kneeling by his side, began to pray for him. The words did not affect him much—he was so drunk; but presently he saw his mother sink down upon the floor. He staggered to her, and lifting her, said: "Mother, are you sick?" His anxiety for her sobered him somewhat, and to his horror he soon discovered that she was dead. He had not drank a drop from that day to this, but has devoted his life to the cause of temperance. That Christian mother gave her life for her son; but who can say that her influence may not live forever.

There is no public place where women may work to better advantage than in the educational field. They make faithful and efficient teachers, as a rule, and fill, successfully, all the grades, from the Kindergarten to University work. I have yet to hear of a lady teacher who uses tobacco, or countenances its use among her pupils; and I believe very few would use slang phrases, or allow swearing by the pupils to go unrebuked.

I also firmly believe that when women avail themselves of the privilege they now possess of voting on school questions, there will be more than three or four present at a school meeting, and that the number of school months in the year will not be reduced from nine months to six months, as was done by at least one district in this county at the last school meeting.

I do not pretend, by any means, to have exhausted the list of op-

portunities that women possess of exerting an influence in the world. I have only made a beginning. Yet I realize there is a limit to your patience, and that there are others you would like to hear from; but as there is one domain that I would award the highest place of all, I cannot close my essay without giving a few lines to its consideration. Thus you will infer that it has not been left till the last, because it is deemed the least important, but to give it greater prominence. That place is the home. What grand opportunities has the mother to mould the minds and characters of her children, and fit them for the future work of life. How many great and good men have testified that they owed all that they were to the influence of a devoted and self-sacrificing wife or mother?

Washington Irving pays a fine tribute to the fortitude of women in the following words:

"I have had occasion to remark the fortitude with which women sustain the most overwhelming reverses of fortune. Those disasters which break down the spirit of a man, and prostrate him to the dust, seem to call forth all the energies of the softer sex, and give such intrepidity and devotion to their character that, at times, it approaches to sublimity. Nothing can be more touching than to behold a soft and tender female, who had been all weakness and dependence, and alive to every trivial roughness while treading the prosperous paths of life, suddenly rising, in mental force, to be the comforter and support of her husband under misfortune, and abiding, with unshrinking firmness, the bitterest blasts of adversity."

Who can tell how many men and women owe their education to the self-denial and economy of some loving mother, who overcame all obstacles to keep them in school.

To make an ideal home, it is true, requires the united efforts of both father and mother, and the closest sympathy with each other in the care and education of the children; yet I think all will admit that it is the woman who gives the finishing touches, and keeps the thousand and one little things running smoothly.

"A man can build a mansion,
And furnish it throughout;
A man can build a palace
With lofty walls and stout;
A man can build a temple
With high and spacious dome;
But no man in the world can build
That precious thing called home.

It is the happy faculty
Of woman far and wide,
To turn a cot or palace
Into something else beside,
Where brothers, sons and husbands, tired,
With willing footsteps come;
A place of rest where love abounds,
A perfect kingdom,—home.

How important, then, if our opportunities are so great, that we exert our influence in the right direction.

"The smallest bark on life's tumultuous ocean,
Will leave a track behind forevermore;
The lightest wave of influence, set in motion,
Extends and widens to the eternal shore.
We should be wary, then, who go before
A myriad yet to be, and we should take
Our bearings carefully where breakers roar
And fearful tempests gather; one mistake
May wreck unnumbered barks that follow in
our wake."

Woman's Work.

Woman's Work in the Grange is the same to-day as it has been since its first organization—anything and everything there is to do. No part they may not take, no position they may not fill, either in Subordinate, County, State or National. Neither do I believe that the committee on Woman's Work was appointed first by the National, then by the State and Subordinate Granges, because we had not been faithful workers in this fruitful field, but through a wise forethought and kindness, realizing that this Order, which has done so much already for us, was capable of doing still greater things if we could only be brought to see the possibilities that were within our reach.

Work, so that our work may, by its very excellence, be a help and inspiration to others. Work, so that no matter how humble it may seemingly be it will be good and acceptable in His sight who created the world and us to work therein. It might be well to look over the field and see what work women are doing in the Grange to-day. In attendance, I think they fully

equal the men; in discussions, do not think they take as active a part as the brothers; in literary work believe they do. In official, although not doing half, they are steadily gaining.

In short, Women's Work in the Grange is the same as women's work the world over, to make sunshine, to scatter seeds of love and charity, to dispel doubts and fears, and bravely put her hand to the wheel, and never turn back until sin and sickness, selfishness and greed, drunkenness and crime, poverty and misery have been banished from the world, and in their place reigns a free, healthy, happy, pure-minded people, who do not only proclaim that all men and women are created equal, but live it. So, my sisters, as we shall have to give a great amount of work ere that time, let us not be discouraged, but remember that

"The sun gives ever, so the earth
What it can give, so much 'tis worth;
The ocean gives in many ways,
Gives paths, gives fishes, rivers, bays;
So, too, the air, it gives no breath
When it stops going, comes in death."
"Give, give, be always giving;"
Who gives not is not living,
The more you give
The more you live.

God's love hath in us wealth unheaped,
Only by giving it is reaped;
The body withers, and the mind,
If pent in by a selfish rind;
Give strength, give thought, give deeds, give self,
Give love, give tears and give thyself.
Give, give, be always giving;
Who gives not is not living;
The more we give
The more we live.

—H. S. Johnson, in *Husbandman*.

No Pocket.

I usually submit to the decrees of fashion, if not with grace, at least with proper resignation, but when the fickle goddess robs us of the one skirt pocket, to which we were clinging like a drowning man to a straw, I rebel. A man can and does have from twelve to sixteen pockets in every suit, but all the receptacle that is left to woman is her watch pocket, and that is often so inconveniently placed that she does not consult her watch, even though she is anxious to know of the flight of time. I know some ladies who do not keep their watches wound, because it is so much trouble to get at them for use that they are worn solely for ornament.

With the present fashions a woman needs to be like one of the heathen gods of which we all have seen pictures, with four arms and hands on each side. When she walks to church these fine mornings she must carry her long, trailing skirt with one hand and her large silk umbrella spread with the other, then where, pray you, are the hands to carry her fan, Bible and quarterly for Sunday school, the case for her glasses, handkerchief, and the ever-needed purse for the church and Sunday school collections? I have vainly sought to solve the problem. The handkerchief can be tucked under the basque, making an unsightly little bulge on one side, and with great risk of losing the same, and the money can go inside the glove of the left hand, so that the cordial hand-shaker may not discover your poor subterfuge, but woe to you if the minister calls for an extra collection for the heathen. I sometimes wonder if they suffer more without clothes than we do without pockets. But after all, no pocket at all is about as well as those so far in the rear of the skirt that one was always in danger of crushing the contents, and was obliged to go through very ungraceful and, sometimes, unsuccessful contortions when sitting in church and seeing the collection box coming nearer, while her most frantic efforts failed to make connection with the right plait that would lead to the mysteriously hidden pocket. The ever present "bag" goes with us on week days, but would not be permissible on Sundays, and it really seems to me that we were never before such slaves to fashion. A man, with the lack of knowledge of feminine attire for which they are noted, said the other day: "Well, if I wanted a pocket I'd have one, if other ladies didn't." Poor man, he did not know, as we do, that there is no place for one; and the case is hopeless, until some plait or gather, or tuck, or frill, is allowed, unless the highly ornamented patch-pocket of twelve

or fifteen years ago should swoop down upon us; but anything that will "hold things" will be welcomed by El. See, Michigan Farmer Household.

The Ladies' Favorites.

By perusing the pages of the French Fashion Journals republished in English by A. McDowell & Co., 4 West 14th Street, New York, it can readily be understood, how they have become "the Favorites" with ladies. Issued in Paris by different publishers, they are the leading Fashion Journals of the "Old World." It is not, therefore, a matter for surprise that unbiased critics should have pronounced them the best Fashion Journals ever offered to the American public. It would be strange, indeed, if ladies did not give up the inferior Fashion magazines which they have hitherto patronized for these handsome journals, which are known to be a month ahead of all others in giving the styles, and contain such valuable practical lessons in the art of cutting and making dresses. "La Mode de Paris" and "Album des Modes" are rivals for the first place, single copies being 35 cents each, or \$3.50 per annum. "La Mode," the Family Magazine, is only 15 cents a copy, or \$1.50 a year. Do not allow news agents to substitute inferior publications for these, which can be mailed to you from N. Y. at the prices here given.

The Alabaster Vase.

When the Christ lived upon earth a feast was made for him by his friends, to which came Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mary, to show her love for the Master, brought out an alabaster vase of spikenard, and having broken it, poured the precious contents over the person of her Lord. Then she knelt and wiped his feet with her silken hair.

It is thought that some foreboding of some awful fate to follow impressed her to thus show her adoration while yet the one she loved was still with her. If only we would all think as Mary did, and break our alabaster vases before our loved ones have left us! Why do we so often wait until it is too late before we bring them forth? We have kept them perhaps for years and years, and we had been tempted many times to break the seal, and with their sweet fragrance delight those we loved before they put on immortality.

The treasure was for them—we had worked and saved and tried so hard to gather it, and it was to have been broken in their honor. But the days flew by, and ere we could comprehend our woeful loss, we came to understand that the grave of our dear one was the only place where we could break the vase.

Let us break the vases early, and so enable "our own" to live in the perpetual perfume of our too often hoarded love. While they are yet alive, let us shower our love upon them, and then we need not moan our useless regrets—above an open grave.

How often has the hungry heart longed for the breaking of the alabaster vase, that the sweet fragrance might enter into it and make it glad; how often, alas! has it been denied this joy—until above, a still heart, the contents were unsealed, and too late the bereft one recognized the long heart-hunger. For the bread of affection was given the stone of neglect, and the worth of the translated one realized only after the contents of the alabaster vase could no longer bring happiness or content.

Why should we fill vases so often and leave them for others to break? Hoarding, grasping saving, pinching—for into some vases go moneys instead of love, and not until we are gone from earth are these vases of ours broken. Then, above our still forms, there is squabbling and discontent—above our deaf ears the din of disagreement and if the power to look upon mortality be given us we shall certainly wonder at our own unwisdom in leaving that which we might so acceptably have given, with great joy to ourselves while we were yet able to command the breaking of the vase.

Break your vases now, for ye know not what to-morrow will bring!—Mrs. S. in *Free Press*.

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If some of us would look up
more we would see more sunshine

Notices of Meetings.

Program of the Ingham Co. Pomona Grange, to be held with Williamston Grange, at Williamston, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20th and 21st. Will open Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock, in secret session, to transact business of Pomona Grange and hold the Pomona Grange Oratorical Contest. All other sessions open to the public.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 A. M.
"Variety of Fruit for the Family"—H. P. Gladden, Capitol Grange.

"Choosing an Occupation"—J. F. Patrick, White Oak.

"Are Farmers Keeping Pace with the Educational Movement of To-day?"—A. D. Bank, Capitol Grange.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
"The Diseases Due to the Indiscriminate Management of Horses"—Dr. E. A. Grange, Agricultural College.

"The Country Boy vs. the City Boy"—Mrs. A. Gunnison, Clinton county.

"Work at the College now"—A. T. Stevens, Alacoidon.

Songs, recitations, etc., intermingled. HARRIS F. MILLETT, Sec'y Ingham Co. Pom. Grange.

The second semi-annual meeting of the Jackson County Farmers' Club will be held in Jackson, on Wednesday, Nov. 11, '91. Following is the program:

MORNING SESSION, 10:00.

Singing by Club from Gospel Hymns No. 5, Mrs. William Russell, organist.

Prayer.
Reading Minutes.
Business.

Vocal Music by Mrs. William Russell and others of the Napoleon Club.

Recitation, Miss Blanche Tompkins, of Napoleon.

Paper for Discussion by Wm. West, of Liberty; Subject: "Traditional Influences."

Paper by A. D. Berger, of Grass Lake; Subject: "Economy in Farm Management."
Adjournment.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30.

Singing by Liberty Club Choir, Mrs. E. Gibbons, organist.

Recitation by Miss Maud Smith, of Columbia Club.

Paper for Discussion by A. R. Palmer, of Norvell Club; Subject: "Farm Improvements."

Paper for Discussion by Edwin T. Borner, of Parma; Subject: "Who is the Successful Farmer?"

Essay by Mrs. E. W. Crafts, of Grass Lake; Subject: "Should Women Work Less and Read More?"

Solo, Mrs. E. Gibbons, of Liberty.

Paper for Discussion by J. P. Dean, of Napoleon; Subject: "The Relative Value of Marsh Muck as a Fertilizer."

Paper by J. D. Reed, of Columbia; Subject: "Faults and Difficulties of the Farmer."

Recitation by Miss Cora Kennedy, of Liberty.

Singing by Club, Mrs. E. Gibbons, organist.

Adjournment.

Let every member come and have a good time.

Bring Gospel Hymns No. 5.
W. F. RAVEN, Sec'y.

Hillsdale Co. Pomona Grange will hold its next meeting at G. A. R. Hall, Hillsdale, Thursday, Dec. 3d. The forenoon will be devoted to Business of the Order and Good of the Order, Afternoon, election of officers and, if time permits, discussions upon general topics of the day.
J. E. WAGNER, Lect.

The annual session of the Allegan County Council will be held at Allegan Grange Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 1st. The meeting will be called to order at 10 o'clock sharp, in order to transact the necessary business before taking up the social and literary exercises. First in order will be the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, followed by the reports of officers, election of officers and dinner. After which will be given music and the Address of Welcome, by Sister Harriet Hurd, of Allegan; response by Homer Leggett, of Watson. Elder Harvey, of Allegan, has been invited to give a short address.

Allegan Grange at its last session decided to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this Order on this day, and to invite the neighboring Granges of the county to co-operate with them by bringing in papers and addresses suitable to the occasion, instead of confining the meeting to a prescribed program as has been the usual case. All feeling an interest in the matter, and will respond, will find a cordial welcome. Remember day and date. Secretaries of Subordinate Granges please bring the matter to the attention of your several Granges.
N. A. DIBBLE, Lect.

November Crop Report.

For this report returns have been received from 610 correspondents, representing 504 townships.

The area seeded to wheat this fall is slightly in excess of the area seeded in the fall of 1890. Compared with that year the exact figures are 101 per cent in the southern counties, 100 per cent in the central counties, and 102 per cent in the northern counties, the average for the State being 101.

An increased acreage is reported in nineteen of the twenty-eight counties in the southern section, and in nine of the thirteen counties in the central section.

The area harvested this year, including spring wheat, was 1,572,617 acres.

In condition the growing wheat averages 88 per cent in the southern counties and 91 per cent in the State, comparison being with vitality and growth of average years. One year ago the corresponding figures were 106 and 105, the condition at that time being better than on the same date for a number of years.

The present comparatively low condition of wheat is due to damage by insects and to dry weather. Nearly forty per cent of the correspondents in the southern counties report damage by insects. Only two counties in this section, Lapeer and St. Clair, report the condition of wheat 100 per cent of an average. In these counties quite heavy rains occurred during the month, the total rainfall at Thornville in Lapeer county amounting to 3.26 inches.

The corn crop is a full average. The estimate for the southern counties is 57, for the central 59, for the northern 50, and for the State 56, bushels of ears. This is an average of about 28 bushels of shelled corn per acre.

The area of clover seed harvested this year is about four-fifths that of 1890. The average yield per acre is 1.45 bushels.

The potato crop in the southern and northern counties is estimated at 96 per cent, in the central counties at 100 per cent, and in the Upper Peninsula at 80 per cent of a full average. The figures for the State are 96.

Live stock throughout the State is in good condition.

The average precipitation for October was 1.68 inches. This is 1.45 inches below the average of fifteen years. The precipitation was below the average in every section, the deficiency in the southern and central sections amounting to 1.57 inches.

The Ohio crop report for November furnishes the following for that State:

Wheat—Sown this fall for harvest of 1892 compared with last year, 106 per cent.

Wheat—Estimated area for harvest of 1892, 2,795,215 acres.

Wheat—Condition of plant compared with a full average, 76 per cent.

Corn—Prospect compared with a full average, 95 per cent.

Cloverseed—Prospect compared with a full average, 47 per cent.

Potatoes—Average product per acre, 99 bushels.

DANIEL E. SOPER,
Secretary of State.

Maria Parloa, the famous domestic writer, has become one of the regular editors of the Ladies' Home Journal, and will hereafter conduct a department of her own in that periodical.

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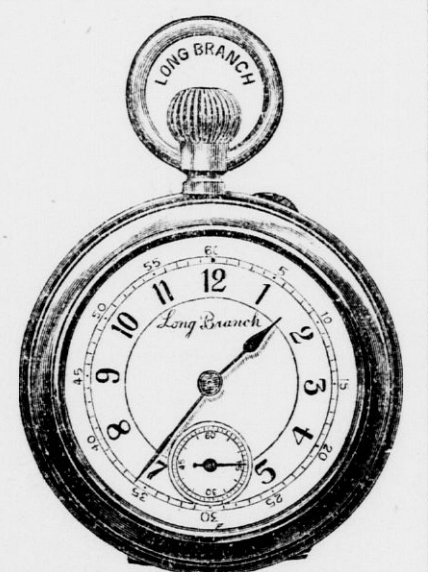
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do do Brogans.....	1 29
do Heavy Calf Shoes.....	1 05
do Fine Calf Shoes.....	1 37
do Solid Grain Plow Shoes.....	1 37
Boys' Solid Kip Boots.....	1 75
do Solid Split Boots.....	1 50
do Solid Brogans.....	95
do Solid Calf Shoes.....	1 29
Ladies' Solid Calf Button Shoes.....	1 37
do Heavy Grain Button Shoes.....	1 27
do "A" Kip Lace Shoes.....	1 15
do Solid Grain Lace Shoes.....	1 20
do Solid Calf Lace Shoes.....	1 27
do Cloth Lined Lace Shoes.....	98
do Fine Dongola Button Shoes.....	1 25

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Sizes 11 to 2.....	93
Sizes 8 to 11.....	79
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Men's White Unlaundered Shirts.....	47
do Wool Underwear, per set.....	92
do Flannel Shirts.....	39
do Mixed Socks.....	4

CORSETS.

Ladies' Fine Corsets, White, Steel & Drab.....	39
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Men's Worsteds Suits.....	\$4 05
do Diagonal Suits.....	4 00
do Cassimere Suits.....	5 05
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do Fine All Wool Suits.....	7 00
do Dressy Cordscrew Suits.....	7 50
do Best Cheviots.....	1 05
do Cottonade Pants.....	1 05
do Jean Pants.....	53
do All Wool Pants.....	2 50
do Overalls.....	45
do Jumpers.....	59
do Sateen Cassimere Coats.....	1 75
do Cassimere Coats.....	1 75
do Worsteds Coat and Vest.....	2 50
do Heavy Overcoats.....	3 05
do Black Beaver Overcoats.....	5 50
do Chinchilla Overcoats.....	4 75
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Boys' Worsteds Suits—13 to 18 yrs.....	3 00
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do Cassimere Suits—13 to 18 yrs.....	1 05
do Worsteds Suits—4 to 13 yrs.....	2 05
do Sateen Cassimere Suits—4 to 13 yrs.....	1 40
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