

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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

The Utopian Farmer.

Come here, my dear, I want ter say a word or two ter you
'Bout what I think's the proper thing for me 'n you to do.
You've gave me mighty good advice since we was wed that day
'Way back in sixty-one, 'n now I'd like to have you say
Ef you don't think I've got a right to do as others does,
'N sell the crops before they grows, just like them Easterners.
Why, Meg, a man out in Noo York has sold a lot ov corn
That's several thousand bushels more than what the country's borne—
'N got his money, too, I'm told, and didn't have a peck
Of grain of any kind in hand to back his little spec.
He cleared a hundred thousand cash! 'N Meg, that's more 'n we
Have cleared at farmin' all our days, or ever will, by gee!
'N I can't say I sees the use o' workin' day by day
'N only selling what we raise for mighty little pay.
When them as hasn't any grain can sell up there in town
A million bushels wheat 'n corn, 'n git their money down.
That dern plan's a dandy, Meg, 'n if we can make it go,
I'll get you a pianer, an' a trottin' horse for Joe.
We'll raise the mortgage off the roof, 'n paint the old barn red,
'N send the gals to Paris, France, and buy a rose-wood bed.
We'll get new carpets for the floors, 'n keep a hired man,
Ef only I can go to town 'n learn to work the plan.
'N mebbe, Meg, I'd make enough ter run for governor,
Or get sent down to Washington a full-fledged senator.
I tell yer, Meg, this is an age that beats creation. Say,
What would your father say, d'ye think, if he was here to-day.
Ter see folks sellin' wheat and corn and hull cars full of rye,
'N 'leven-twelfths of all they sold nowhere but in their eye?
How he would yell ter think of us a makin' of a pot
Of gold at sellin' fellers things we haven't really got!
What's that ye say? It isn't straight to sell what ye don't own?
'N if I goes into that spec, I'll have to go alone?
The music on the pianner yer think would drive yer mad,
If it was bought by sellin' things yer never rightly had?
Waal, have yer way; I'll let it go; I didn't mean no harm;
But what is straight in cities can't be crooked on the farm.
—Harper's Magazine.

Bro. Wildey's Protest Endorsed.

In a recent number of the VISITOR appears a timely protest from Bro. E. A. Wildey, against the action of the Masters of the State and National Granges in ruling out of order a resolution designed to secure greater equality and justice in the Grange. The first clause of the resolution cited by Bro. Wildey, originated in Van Buren County Pomona Grange. The latter part originated elsewhere and is explanatory of the first, but far less general in its scope. According to my recollection, as it passed our Pomona Grange, the preamble recited that, whereas, the Grange is an order aiming at justice and equal rights, and whereas, the present system of choosing delegates to the State Grange does not secure just and equal representation between granges nor equal rights between members; therefore, resolved, that any

fourth degree member in good standing should be eligible to election as delegate to the State Grange.

It may be said that this is already true. Yes, technically construed it is, but, as mover of the resolution I had only in mind its practical workings, by which it is far from being true. To illustrate the workings of the present law, take Van Buren County; it is entitled nominally to two delegates, but in reality to four, as their wives, if matrons, are also members of the State Grange. Virtually then we are entitled to four representatives in the State Grange. Have we the right to elect four? No, we can elect two, and the State Grange by its by-laws designates who the other two shall be, or denies us the other two entirely as the case may be. In other words, if we elect two married men whose wives are matrons, the State Grange appoints these matrons delegates and we secure full representation. But if we elect two unmarried brothers, or two sisters, either single or married, it denies us the other two representatives and deprives us of one-half our voting power in that body. For the State Grange to assume to determine who one-half of our delegates shall be is an unwarranted usurpation of power and a disregard of the right of members to determine for themselves who shall represent them, and is in direct violation of the clause of the Constitution, which says in effect, that all officers shall be elected by ballot and that every fourth degree member is equally eligible to office. The marriage relation is made an essential to securing equal representation between granges, and this discrimination renders the unmarried practically ineligible to that office. The wife of a delegate might be the best one we would select to represent us and might be wholly unqualified, but she has full power as a member. We may wish to send a gifted and brilliant sister, possessed of every grace and talent to make her a useful and valuable member, but she must be denied the honor of being elected on account of her own ability and worth, and must go as an appendage of a husband, who may be nothing more than a good-natured cipher. But to hold our representation, and secure her services, we must elect him to give her a chance to go. So, the State Grange is composed in part of lay figures, to whom it pays per diem and mileage, which is as good as thrown away, so far as their being of any use to legislation, while at home, barred out by the workings of this law, are men and women, able, talented, every way qualified to go there and do intelligent, effective work for the good of the order.

The object of the resolution was to correct these inequalities, to prevent this injustice and secure equal rights and privileges to every member of the order.

In the declaration of purposes of the National Grange we find this general expression: "We desire a proper equality, equity and fairness;" &c.

Article four of the Constitution admits woman to unqualified membership, which carries with it, of course, absolute equality in rights and privileges with every other member.

But article first presumes and virtually so states that Masters and Representatives to the State Grange be men; and further on

that the members of the National Grange shall be Masters of State Granges and their wives. There was never a thought, apparently, that a woman could ever be elected Master of a State Grange. How is that for equality and fairness? Moreover, nearly half the voting members of the National Grange, the most important body in our order, have never been elected by the ballots of the members, as provided in the Constitution for the election of officers. It may be said that they were elected by virtue of the husband being made a member. It is a new and startling theory if one person can be elected by voting for another.

All through the Constitution and laws of the order runs the tacit assumption that man has a preferred claim on all the honors worth having, and everywhere is the insulting discrimination against woman as an officer, or the still greater indignity of bestowing official honors as an act of complimentary gallantry.

I am not in favor of any sickly sentimentalism on the subject of woman's rights, but I do believe that the good of the order demands that all members should stand upon the same level, with the same rights, privileges and opportunities, and that preference should neither be aided nor hindered on account of sex, but should be determined wholly by ability and worth. I bring the power to conscientiously champion the right and fearlessly oppose the wrong. I cannot think any resolution aiming to secure this state of things out of order or harmony with the fundamental principles of our order, but that the "laws and usages" that conflict with it most certainly are. To me, much of our system is redolent of the dim and musty past, and should be brought out and inspected in the light of progressive civilization and overhauled, renovated and reorganized on the basis of proper "equality, justice and fairness." A. W. HAYDON.

The Worst Lottery of All.

The most notable event in the agricultural world in January was the introduction in Congress of the Washburn-Hatch bill to regulate the dealing in "futures" or "options" of fiat grain. This measure imposes a tax of 5c per pound and 20c per bushel on all speculative transactions in fictitious farm products. We are pleased to see that the cause is being espoused most earnestly by the old reliable American Agriculturist of New York, standard authority on agricultural subjects. With its customary enterprise, that magazine has investigated the whole subject, and is publishing the results of its inquiry from month to month. It is also furnishing free to all interested in this reform a descriptive circular and petitions describing just how every farmer can assist in getting the measure through Congress.

The bill has aroused the most bitter opposition from boards of trade sharks at all the great centers. Their main argument is that it will operate to reduce prices from 10 to 20 per cent, and place the poor farmer at the mercy of the millers who buy his grain or the factories that consume his cotton. This tender solicitude for the farmer's interest is vociferously applauded by the gamblers who have been engaged for years in fleecing him right and left.

What the farmer objects to is

not contracts at specified prices for the delivery of actual produce at a certain time in the future. He wages no war on owners' contracts and legitimate transactions of this nature. It is just this point that the boards of trade and the metropolitan press keep still about. They tried to make it appear that the farmers demand the prohibition of all trading except in actual products that are delivered on the spot.—What the farmer wants is to put a stop to speculation in futures and options that are bought and sold by men who never own or expect to own or to buy or to deliver the produce the options represent. They simply bet that the market will go up or down, and settle the deal by paying the difference in prices. This, with the offerings of unlimited quantities of fiat produce every day, is what the farmer objects to. And he has a right to do so. Every such fictitious transaction has as much influence on the market as though it were genuine, and as it is always easier to depress than to advance prices, the whole gambling system operates disastrously to the farmer, and it certainly should be corrected.

Shall Feed be Ground?

It is admitted by all intelligent farmers and stock feeders that to get full benefit of grain is to grind it. The question, however, whether the cob is worth grinding is no new one. The experience of our best informed farmers, and actual experiments on the subject, is, the cob ground with the corn makes better feed than when ground alone. Shelled corn alone is too strong when fed heavy, and is apt to cause indigestion. If you would get the benefit of feed, there must be perfect digestion. To feed meal alone, it often goes into the stomach and passes off without being re-chewed. With cob, however, it being of a coarse nature, forces the animal to re-chew the food, and this is essential to perfect digestion. Stock raisers claim that the grinding of cob with the corn effects a saving of from 30 to 40 per cent. Cattle are "off their feed" less and will put on one-third more fat.

Pomfret and Woodstock (Ct.) Farmers' Club report from experiments in feeding ground feed to hogs, as follows: 3½ lbs. of ground corn and cob meal produced one pound dressed pork; 5½ lbs. corn meal without cob, produced one pound of dressed pork, while it took 6 lbs. of grain corn to produce one pound of pork. Corn in the ear was then worth 59c per bushel; 66c when shelled and ground, and 71c when ground with the cob. As an argument that cob is at least harmless to stock, every farmer knows that stock, especially cattle, eat corn in the ear, cob and all. This is nature's argument that cob is beneficial.

Pigs are benefitted by having cob-meal mixed with their food.

The Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette says in its agricultural column as follows: "Pigs are found to do much better on finely ground cob meal than upon clear corn meal; the reason being that they digest their food better when it goes into their stomach in a porous condition. The cob separates the particles of meal so the gastric juice can circulate through the mess."

The Drainage and Farm Journal says, in speaking of an experiment tried by them wherein

they fed ground corn, and cob to milch cows, increasing their flow of milk one-half: "Several winters in succession we have fed ground corn and cobs, which increases the flow of milk as above. We were then convinced it paid, and the experience above mentioned indicates that ground ear corn, fed to milk stock, is better feed than whole ear corn, and enough to justify the expense of a cheap feed mill on an ordinary sized farm."

Large sheep owners report in experimenting on ground feed, that ear corn ground for feed is worth one-third more, for the reason that sheep feed more regular in flesh than if fed shelled corn. They cannot eat it up so quickly, the stronger ones getting more than their share. They say: "We prefer it before shock corn, or corn and oats. Take ear corn and shell it: where it would feed 200 sheep, it would feed 300 head if ground cob and all."

Options and Futures.

The following is a synopsis of Sanator Washburn's bill: Options are defined as "any contract or agreement whereby a party thereto (or any party for whom, or in whose behalf such contract or agreement is made) contracts to have or give to himself, or to another, the option to buy or sell at a future time any of the grain or other commodity" named later. Futures are defined as "any contract or agreement whereby a party agrees to buy or agrees to sell at a future time to another any of the articles" mentioned hereafter "when at the time of making such contract or agreement the party so agreeing to make such delivery (or the party for whom he acts as agent, broker or employe in making such contract or agreement) is not at the time of making the same, the owner of the article so contracted and agreed to be delivered, or unless the article so contracted to be sold and delivered shall subsequently be actually delivered to the purchaser for manufacture or consumption." He excepts, however, from this any contract or agreement for future delivery made with the United States or any state, county or municipality, or with the duly authorized officers or agents thereof, and excepts any of the contracts or agreements made by farmers for the sale and delivery of any of the articles named, viz: "Wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, cotton, and all other farm products; also pork, lard, and all other hog products."

Dealers in options or futures are required to take out a license from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, paying \$1,000 per year for the same. They are required to make a statement of their business each week, and pay 5 cents per pound for each and every pound of cotton, or pork, lard or other hog products, and 20 cents per bushel for each and every bushel of any of the other articles named above.

There are, of course, heavy fines for not living up to the requirements of the law, and much red tape as to the methods of recording and duplicating all transactions in options and futures.

The spring seed catalogues begin to arrive, J. T. Lovett's, of Little Silver, N. J., being among the first and finest. A good catalogue every year is among the essentials for those who are horticulturally inclined. Send for Lovett's.

Speech Against Options.

"The short seller is to-day the anarchist of America," said John Whitaker, a large pork packer of St. Louis, Mo., and Wichita, Kas., on the 5th inst., in an address to the House Committee on Agriculture in advocacy of the anti-options bill.

To Representative Alexander, Mr. Whitaker said that unquestionably the tendency of "short" selling was to depress prices and to interfere with legitimate trade. Farmers, he said, were not compelled to market their grain instead of storing it, but the experience of the past eight years had taught them that holding wheat was a "losing game," and that with this unlimited short selling "beating down the price" each year, the best time to sell grain was as soon as it was harvested.

"Wipe out if possible the short seller, the non-owner, in other words the American anarchist," said Mr. Whitaker, adding "That is what he is. I say it soberly. The short seller is to-day the anarchist of America—the worst one we have, and he will make the farmer come down and sell his stuff under the red flag."

Mr. Whitaker said the wheat exported this year had probably averaged in price 95 cents per bushel, and if this proposed law had been in force, he believed it would have brought considerably more than one dollar per bushel. He did not believe the law would hurt owners of real grain or provisions, because, if fictitious offerings were done away with, the market would be supplied with actual grain and provisions and, there being a smaller quantity offered, prices would be better. In New York it was regarded as necessary to sell 80,000,000 bushels of grain to market the three or four million. We produced no coffee, and for that reason he believed in option selling in coffee. That gave the American citizen cheaper coffee, as it enabled the price to be fixed by sales of large quantities of coffee that was not in existence. Option wheat sales had recently begun in Liverpool, and the practice was good for England because she was a large importer of wheat.

Mr. Hatch: In your experience, what effect has the fictitious sale of meat products had upon the price?

Mr. Whitaker: It has continually lowered the price.

In reply to Representative Caminetti, Mr. Whitaker said the actual products which came upon market had to be sold at the price fixed by the unlimited offerings and fictitious buying or selling. Meat products the last year, he thought, would have been 10 to 20 per cent higher if they had been competing with real products.

In answer to a question by Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitaker said that in his judgment this fictitious selling produced an abnormal condition of the market which defeated the law of supply and demand. He believed that cotton would have sold for eight cents or more this year, but for short selling by bears.

Mr. Lewis: In your opinion, then, 8,500,000 bales is not over-production?

Mr. Whitaker said he was not a cotton expert, and could not answer that question, but he thought if investigated it would be found that the 8,500,000 bales produced would not have had the damaging effect it has had on the price but for short selling and the publication of numerous reports of over-production and small consumption. He frequently received letters from Europe saying the writers could pay better prices for meats if the American market could only be kept steady. But this market could not be kept steady when the cash price was being pulled down by sales for future delivery by every Tom, Dick and Harry.

Mr. Moses: You think, then, that the price of commodities is governed by the amount of fictitious offerings?

Mr. Whitaker: Undoubtedly.

Mr. Moses: Do you hold that the market is not regulated by the law of supply and demand?

Mr. Whitaker: Yes, sir.

[There is a good deal of hard sense in the following letter from the Whipple Harrow Co., that we

commend to the attention of farmers.—Ed.]

St. Johns, Mich., January, 1892.—To Our Friends, the Farmers: In our greeting we wish to thank you, especially those who have purchased tools direct of us during the past two seasons, for their kindness, honorable dealings and encouraging letters which set forth the merits of our tools.

At first we were somewhat skeptical about dealing directly with you as we had been informed time and time again by dealers and a certain class of traveling men called experts, that farmers were tricky, and that they would take tools on trial, do their work and then return them; but after two years experience and the sale of several hundred tools with only two returned, and prompt payments and good testimonials, we have come to the conclusion that we had been misinformed.

Every Grange, every church, community and every business has its black sheep. In the retail trade there is a class of dealers who are always preaching honesty but never practice it. Smooth talkers, who promise anything and everything to make a sale, all blarney to your face, and stab when your back is turned. There is also a class of slick farmers built upon the same principle, and taking the three classes, the tricky dealer, cunning farmer and traveling expert, the reputation of the farmers as a class has been very much impaired.

The interests of farmers, country dealers and manufacturers of agricultural implements, and other lines of goods as well, are identical, or should be, because without the farmer the implement manufacturer could not exist and there would be no use for the country store, and without implement manufacturers and country dealers the farmer would find life a burden; and as the majority of the three classes—farmers, dealers and manufacturers, are borrowers, they should be in sympathy with one another in politics as well as in business; and if cheap money, cheap freights and the abolition of trusts and combinations will be beneficial to the farmers they will certainly be a benefit to the dealers and honest manufacturers, who are opposed to combinations and trusts.

If the reliable farmers (and there is a host of them), honest tradesmen and manufacturers interested in the welfare of the farmers would get together, investigate and compare notes, get acquainted and bar out the shyster element, give the political tricksters and calamity howlers to understand that they had no use for them, confidence would soon be restored.

In times past manufacturers and dealers made money and so did the farmers, but for the past few years it has been only by close figuring and strict attention to business that capital invested has paid legal interest, and taking a number of failures into consideration it shows that quite a percentage do not make two ends meet. Yet the calamity howlers will tell you that the manufacturers and dealers are robbing you at every turn.

There is no doubt but what the price on certain classes of agricultural implements could be reduced and dealers would make more money than under the present system.

The implement trade supports thousands of experts which the manufacturer, dealer and farmer would be better off without. They are not legitimate traveling men and should not be classes as such. They are worse than the shyster dealer as they are a bundle of promises and guarantees and will guarantee an implement to do all kinds of farm work, from digging potatoes to milking a cow; will misrepresent the sale to the dealer and lie to his employer, the manufacturer, and when settling time comes there is a general hubbub, and confidence in humanity is terribly shaken.

Our experience has demonstrated to us that experts are not needed, and that farmers have less trouble when they set up their own machines than when they have the assistance of an expert, and it is a well known fact that experts or helpers as a class are not breeders of harmony, as harmony and confidence between

farmers, dealers and manufacturers might throw him out of a job; therefore, to cover up his tracks and create discord he howls about the dishonest farmer. Do away with this class of men; buy agricultural implements the same as you would buy anything else. Do not ask for implements on trial or on long time. Set up your own tools and cut off an unnecessary expense. If there is anything wrong with the tool purchased, reliable manufacturers and dealers will be as anxious to right it as you are, and the expense saved, manufacturers and dealers would gladly divide with you.

If manufacturers would spend more time in the country and get acquainted with the consumers and users of their products they would be both healthier and wiser, and would take with a good many grains of allowance reports sent in by unscrupulous agents and traveling men.

A clipping from the Farm Machinery, written by the broad-gauged dealer, E. A. Keller, of Edwardsville, Ill., President of the National Association of Retail Dealers, is worthy of notice. It is as follows:

"A certain class of people and a certain class of cheap newspapers are in the habit of abusing and ridiculing farmers at every opportunity. Much of this may be ascribed to ignorance and the love of fun. Many men get all their ideas of farmers from caricatures and stale hayseed witticisms. If these make fun in a friendly spirit they may be forgiven, and pitied for their conceit. But all of the 'fun' is not innocent, and much of the coarse abuse is malevolent in design. Farmers are represented as narrow minded, ignorant, brazenly selfish; awkward in appearance, rude in speech and manner, penurious, cunning and credulous. I have dealt with farmers for many years, and know them to be intelligent, well informed, gentlemen, and generous. As far as their limited means will permit. They have had a hard time for some years and have had to throw away their money. As for their intelligence, it greatly exceeds that of most of the people and editors who abuse them, and between their manners and those of their detractors there is no comparison. The farmers are the backbone of this country, and if those who ridicule them would but realize the fact that they are, in comparison, no better than a nail on the little toe, it would be better for all concerned."

Trusting that before the close of another season that confidence will be partially, if not fully restored, we remain,

Very Truly Yours,
WHIPPLE HARROW CO.

Winter Manure Methods.

At the beginning of winter a thick layer of straw or other material should be spread over the barnyard. If the yard is too large to warrant this it is too large for profit. Without some receptacle to retain it, most of the liquid excrement of domestic animals is wasted. This means the loss of the portion of excrement that is richest in ammonia, and, therefore, most stimulating to plant growth. Fresh urine is often so caustic that it burns vegetation to which it is applied, but it loses this injurious effect when fermented. If the barnyard is small, as it ought to be, then successive layers of bedding may be thrown down, the stock eating what it wishes. If grain is given more straw and other coarse feed will be given, thus taking the place of good hay and making richer manure. Before spring this accumulation of bedding with liquid and solid excrement mixed should be piled in heaps to ferment. It is a good plan to add a small quantity of phosphate well distributed through the heap. Stable manure is generally deficient in phosphate especially if largely mixed with straw. If the two are applied separately neither does the good it should, though after the stable manure is distributed grain crops should have an additional dose of phosphate, as with the drill it can be distributed in contact with the seed so as to do it most good when the plants begin to start. But the phosphate mixed with manure is

most certain to do good later in the season, as it does not revert or become insoluble.—Boston Cultivator.

Profits in Feeding Cattle and Hogs.

The following letters on this subject are clipped from a recent issue of the Country Gentleman: Mr. R. G. Risser's test of feeding 33 two and three-year-old steers and 56 pigs seems to have resulted quite unsatisfactorily, and he asks where the trouble is.

The purpose in view was to produce the greatest amount of beef and pork with the least expenditure of labor and money from the supply of feed mentioned by him—2,545½ bu. corn, 21.1 tons hay, 40 acres clover pasture and 60 acres cornstalks.

In the first place the corn should have been cut and stouted as soon as it became well glazed, as at that period the stalks are green and tender and would have been worth one-third as much as the corn for feeding, and drawn to the stable on a low wagon, from which it should be fed in the stout, thus avoiding the tedious job of husking, worth 4c per bushel.

The steers should also have been stabled nights through the month of September, where they should have been fed night and morning, so that a few of the stronger ones could not intimidate the weaker ones and receive the lion's share, and turned in pasture during the day. After September they should remain in the stable until marketed.

Feeding them 23 lbs. corn (ears on the stalk) and 5 lbs. of hay to each steer per day would, I am confident, produce a gain of 2 lb. on each steer per day. The waste feed and manure from the cattle should be drawn twice daily to the pasture in which the hogs are kept, and spread from the wagon. The hogs should also have a small load of corn in the stout drawn to them as often as necessary.

R. fed to each steer per day 46 lbs. of corn and 11 lbs. of hay for 114 days, which increased the weight of each 205 lbs. With the system of stable feeding, R. will feed the same number of cattle more profitably and save fully 40 per cent of his feed, or could increase his herd to that extent.

J. J. MAHER,
Albany County, N. Y.

Mr. Risser shows net profits of only \$45 above retail prices of corn and hay, and nothing for cornstalks or pasture. I think at present market prices he has done very well in getting retail prices for his corn and hay on his farm. If he owns the farm, manure will pay for labor.

I don't believe that one-third of all the cattle fed the last five years in Illinois and Iowa (if we could get the figures) have sold at home for as much money as the feed they ate would have sold for. I mean to say that one-third or more of the cattle fed the last five years have been fed at an actual money loss.

Mr. Risser bought his cattle Sept. 1, for quality and weight, 3 cts. per lb., cheap, which is the first essential in feeding cattle where you have to expect such low markets to sell on, but he should have had a better gain than 205 lbs. in 115 days feeding, on less corn and hay. I know from experience, however, that September and December of 1891 were poor months to feed in—September on account of flies, December from mud and soft weather. I know of several parties here whose cattle in December did not gain a pound.

I think Mr. R.'s cattle should have done as well as they did on ½ bu. corn per day each steer, which would have been about 1320 bush. for 115 days he fed. According to his figures, he fed 2545 bushels, so that would leave 1225 bu. for his hogs (besides the droppings). That amount of corn at 40c would be \$490; add to cost of pigs, \$206, am't \$696. His hogs were sold for \$450, a loss of \$246, and also a loss of all cattle droppings. No one can buy stock hogs at 4c per lb. and feed them on 40c. corn, and then sell for 3½c. per lb., without losing money.

The way we feed is to break our ear corn into about three pieces, in troughs, and then put one hog after every two steers, as cattle will not drop and throw

out of troughs so much corn if broken.

I also think Mr. Risser fed too much hay, if he had clover pasture and corn stalks, as he says. Fifteen tons of hay should have been enough to have fed them. Also think it was a loss letting his cattle roam over so large an extent as 60 acres of stalks. So I think Mr. R. must add to \$246 loss on hogs, \$48 loss on hay, which would make \$294, and charge that to his own mistake. His cattle would have paid him fairly well.

S. F. LEFEVRE,
Johnson county, Iowa.

Consumption of Wheat Increasing.

We know of no means of more closely calculating the per capita rate of wheat consumption than on the basis of actual quantity consumed, applied to population, says the Cincinnati "Price Current." The correctness of such calculation of course depends on the approximate accuracy of the official statements of production and of exportation, and of estimates of comparative supplies in the country at the beginning and ending of the term of years represented by such calculations. It has been generally accepted by the trade that on July 1, 1882, and on July 1, 1889, the wheat reserves of the country were practically at the minimum point. If it be recognized that such reserves were approximately equal in quantity on these dates, the consumption of wheat for the intervening period of seven years is logically determinable by a simple application of official data. The quantity reported produced during this period was 3,124,000,000 bushels; used for seeding, 373,000,000; exported, 848,000,000; remainder, representing consumption for food and all other purposes, 1,903,000,000 bushels. On the basis of the 1890 census, an application of population figures results in an average of 4.81 bushels yearly per capita for this period. An examination into data, and similarly for previous years, leads us to the conclusion that there has been a moderate gain in the per capita rate of consumption of wheat going on in late years, and justifies the view that the average for the seven years shown is more likely to fall short of the current rate now than otherwise. It is impracticable to estimate the quantity actually consumed for food purposes apart from all other uses. The census of 1890 implies about 64,000,000 as the population of the United States on July 1, 1891. Applying the 4.81 per capita rate the domestic consumption of wheat for all purposes for the current year would be 308,000,000 bushels. If 55,000,000 be allowed for seeding, the requirements on this basis will be 363,000,000. Calculating the production as 600,000,000 would admit of 237,000,000 bushels for exportation, by reducing reserves to the point at which they were at the beginning of the year. It does not always follow that the working classes buy the cheapest food articles. In times of full employment and good earning they are liable to consult economy in such matters much less rigidly than under other conditions. Wheat was not high in cost during the year preceding the present cereal year; nor as yet this year.

[Below are specimen letters received concerning the sewing machine we sell for \$15. Mrs. Merriman's machine was the very first one sent out.—Ed.]

NAOMI, Mich., Jan. 19, '92.—Ed. Visitor: The machine arrived all right. We are pleased with it so far as we have used it. If it holds out as well as it does its work now, we will feel as though we had quite a bargain. Yours respectfully, C. I. DEWITT.

BANGOR, Mich., Feb. 1st, '92.—Ed. Visitor: When we bought the sewing machine of you they either forgot to send the instruction book or it was lost in some way. Can we get one? There are some of the attachments that I do not understand using. I like the machine first-rate; it does as good work as a \$30.00 machine can possibly do. If you have no instruction books give me the address of the manufacturers. Resp'y,

MRS. B. MERRIMAN.

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The Beautiful.

Walk with the beautiful, and with the grand;
 Let nothing on earth thy feet deter;
 Sorrow may lead thee weeping by the hand,
 But give not all thy bosom thoughts to her—
 Walk with the beautiful.

I hear thee say, "The beautiful! What is it?"
 O, thou art darkly ignorant! Be sure
 'Tis no long, weary road its form to visit;
 For thou canst make it smile beside thy door—
 Then love the beautiful.

Aye, love it; 'tis a sister that will bless,
 And teach thee patience when the heart is
 lovely;

The angels love it, for they wear its dress
 And thou art made a little lower only;
 Then love the beautiful.

Thy blossom is its mint, the workman are
 Thy thoughts; and they must coin for thee
 believing,

The beautiful exists in every star;
 Thou mak'st so, and art thyself deceiving
 If otherwise thy faith.

One thing I warn thee, bow no knee to gold;
 Less innocent it makes the guileless tongue,
 It turns the feelings prematurely old;
 And they who keep their best affections young
 Best love the beautiful.

Fertilization of Plants by Honey Bees.

[An essay by Mrs. L. Harrison read at the recent meeting of the Illinois Beekeepers' Convention.]

It appears to be the first anxiety and care of all animal and vegetable life to reproduce its kind. As plants cannot walk like animals, other agents, viz: wind, water, birds and insects, were appointed to carry out the requirements of nature.

Some families of plants grow the male and female flowers on separate plants, as the willow and green ash. In others they are found growing on the same branch, as on the oak, walnut, or castor-oil plant. It is plainly seen that in these two modes of growth some foreign agent is necessary to bring the life-giving power to the embryo plant.

Those plants that are dependent upon the wind to bring together the agents that produce life, yield pollen in great abundance, as the pines, and it is carried great distances. It has been seen covering the ground so thickly that it looked like a layer of sulphur, and it must have come from forests 400 miles distant. Currents of water convey pollen from one aquatic plant to another. In some parts of the world, as in South America or Australia, humming birds are the agents in conveying the pollen to some species of flowers.

Insects are powerful agents in this distribution of the "father dust," and many plants have their own particular insect. *Dicentra spectabilis* never bears seed in this country, because its fertilizing moth has never been introduced from North China, its native habitat. Red clover, *Trifolium pratense*, bore no seed in Australia until bumble-bees, *Bombus*, were introduced, and they appear to be the chief fertilizers of this valuable forage plant.

When Columbus discovered America he found no honey-bees here. But when the settlers came they brought apples, pears, quince and cherry trees, and their fertilizers, the honey-bees. "Nature detests self-fertilization."

The apple blossom is a perfect flower, containing both sexes in one, with the stamens and anthers waving above, the germ; why then does it require a foreign agent to insure fertilization? On a close examination we find that when the germ is in season for the fertilizing powder, the anthers waving above have not burst. When the germ is ready, nature spreads a rich feast of delicious, fragrant nectar, and invites the bees to the nuptials. They come, like millers, with flour on their bodies, and their pollen baskets filled with it kneaded into bread, and as they load up the nectar, they leave behind them some of the fertilizing powder in exchange.

Five distinct fertilizations must take place to produce a perfect apple; if the seeds on one side are fertilized, and those opposite are not, it will be shrunken, or one-sided.

Nature has so ordered that only a limited number of insects shall survive the winter's cold; only

the queens of some species, as bumble-bees and wasps; but bees dwelling in communities have survived by the thousands.

It has been found, by actual count in time of fruit in May, that the bees outnumber all other insects twenty to one, upon the bloom; and on cool days, hundreds of bees are seen on the fruit blossoms, while not a single other insect can be found." Thus we see that the honey-bees are exceedingly important in the economy of vegetable growth and fruitage, especially of all such plants as blossom early in the season.

In England, a fruit grower was surprised to find that the trees near one corner of his grounds, in which were placed colonies of bees, were heavily laden with fruit, while those more remote had set very sparingly. Then he called to mind the fact of its being very dark and foggy during the blooming of the trees, so the bees flew but a short distance from their hives.

Fruit and bees are inseparable. Horticulturists and apiarists are like the American Union, one, and inseparable. White clover, *Trifolium repens*, and its relative, Alsike clover, *Trifolium hybridum*, is dependent almost entirely for fertilization upon honey-bees.

Dairymen have complained that bees robbed the pasture of their sweetness. A writer in the Naturalist says, "It is estimated that to collect one pound of honey from white clover, 62,000 heads of clover must be deprived of their nectar, and that 3,750,000 visits must be made by the bees." If this estimate is correct, the loss of sweetness is not appreciable.

Charles Darwin experimented for eleven years on the cross-fertilization of plants, and has given to the world some very valuable results, proving the very great value of cross fertilization, as it is performed by insects. He found by experiments from twenty heads of white clover, protected from insects, one aborted seed was the only result, while twenty heads on the plants outside the net, and visited by bees, yielded by count 2290 seeds.

The Department of Agriculture.

Secretary Rusk's crusade is only beginning yet. Let American constituencies all over the land strengthen his hands and fill his exchequer; he will pay us back, with interest upon interest, thousands per cent. His work is no play nor make-believe; it is solid, practical, and enduring. America can be made a hundred-fold as productive, agriculturally, as she is now; and Mr. Rusk is the man to promote and accelerate that increase. He has had to struggle against niggardly appropriations, Congressional delays, and popular ignorance; the great results which, notwithstanding these obstacles, he has achieved, are a warrant of what he can do when his hands are free and his (official) pockets full. And no matter how enormous our productiveness may become, the signs are easy to be seen that we shall need it all. A large fraction of Europe is on its annual way to our shores, to co-operate with the natural increase of population in making this the most populous of continents. Meanwhile, war is the manifest destiny of the Old World; and we must ere long be the food-purveyors of the planet. We shall not need war-ships so much as vessels for the conveyance of meat and vegetables; nor harbor defences so much as bridges to run provision-trains across the sea. While the poor, effete old monarchies fly at one another's throats and snarl at one another's heels, we must feed their widows and orphans and the survivors of their cannon and dynamite. After the last shot has been fired, and the last corpse in uniform buried, the residue of the people may return to the cultivation of the soil now enriched with the sinister fertilization of human blood. But until that

time the farming of the world must be done here; and when the futile crusades of armed warriors have passed away and been forgotten, the beneficent crusade of Secretary Rusk will be remembered, and his deeds will be held in honor.—From "Secretary Rusk's Crusade," by Julian Hawthorne, in February Lippincott's.

FITCHBURG, MICH., Jan. 28th 92.
 ED. VISITOR:

Our Grange has recently organized itself into a spelling school from which we are deriving so much sport, as well as instruction, that I would like to tell the readers of the VISITOR something about it thinking perhaps someone might see fit to adopt the plan in their own Grange.

Having had no fewer than eight contests and being tired of the query box and other methods of entertainment to which we had been accustomed to resort, it was evident that we must originate something to keep our usually flourishing Grange in its normal condition.

The idea of the spelling school came to our rescue and was at once adopted. Our captains were accordingly appointed and sides chosen.

It was decided to spell for twenty minutes each meeting the words to be pronounced from the ritual as they occur, discarding all below four letters, the school being governed and conducted by the captains alternately. A word missed on one side and spelled on the other, is counted as one point gained on that side.

Our school thus organized was to continue for six meetings at the close of which time the side scoring the most points during the time is declared victorious and supper ensues as in other contests.

Hoping that this brief description of our plan may be of use to other Granges.

I am fraternally,
 CARRIE M. HAVENS.

In the good old times, when a man thought himself fitted for public duties he became a candidate without further ado, and his fellow-citizens, at the polls, accepted or rejected his services as seemed best to them. There were no caucuses or conventions in those days, packed and run by professional politicians. The voters consulted their own interests and selected their own candidates. In these modern times party-government is a government within the government, and politicians name the candidates. The people have nothing to do but go to the polls and vote as the boss directs. This is all very simple, and would not be so objectionable, if it were not for the fact that these political bosses must all be paid, and well paid, for their services, and the people, the taxpayers, must ante up the money to do the paying with. When a man makes politics a trade, or business, and travels over the country whooping it up for a certain man because it is his turn this time, don't imagine for a single moment that he is impelled in his course by a feeling of patriotism. He is after something more tangible, in fact, in common parlance, he is on the make, is after boodle, and he'll get it, too, as sure as you live, and in the end the voters have it to pay, whether they know it or not. Wouldn't it be a good plan to try and get along without the services of these professional politicians, convention packers, and candidate namers, and let the people select the candidates on account of merit and not as pay for party success?—Farmers' Friend.

DeWitt, Feb. 2. 1892: DeWitt Grange No. 459, is in quite a flourishing condition. The attendance has been good all winter, considering so much sickness. Have Grange every Saturday night; have a membership of about seventy, and hope to increase the number during the

A \$45 SEWING MACHINE for \$15,

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present year. We have a very pleasant hall, nicely carpeted; have a dining-hall below, which makes it very convenient whenever we entertain a Pomona, or have a feast, January 23d, 1892. Mrs. Estella Dills installed the officers; she had the installation service committed to memory, and did it very nicely. The officers are as follows: W. M., Jerome Dills; W. O., Mrs. C. L. Pearce; W. L., Mrs. E. A. Ferguson; W. S., Eddie Favor; A. S., Frank Steinhardt; Chap., Mrs. Geo. Simmons; Treas., George Scott; Sec'y, Melville J. Bedell; Gate Keeper, Geo. Simmons; Pomona, Otie Bedell; Flora, Josie Pearce; Ceres, Hattie Pierce; L. A. S., Estella Dills; Organist, Lena Scott. P. L. C.

The suit brought by Hon. Peter Magnus, of Petersburg, against the Sioux City Nursery company for \$200, has been decided in his favor and is the first instance of the kind we know of where rascally tree peddlers or companies have been brought to justice. In this instance he claimed that he was made the victim of the oily-tongued tree-seller, who exhibited to him highly colored pictures of what the cherries would be like when grown, but Magnus averred that they turned out to be measly things no bigger than currants, and he brought suit to recover the money he had paid in advance. This is a warning to nursery houses that send out agents with alluring but illusive fruit pictures, to call a halt. Every fruit grower in Colorado will thank Mr. Magnus for his persistence in following these people up till justice overtook them.—Colorado Farmer.

"For value received I promise to pay the Grange to which I belong ten per cent. of the benefits bestowed upon me by reason of my connection with the order. Payments to be made in genuine efforts for the prosperity of the Grange." The above is a good form of promissory note to pass into the Grange. It is not safe to promise more than ten per cent. because we receive so much and impart so little individually.—Grange Homes.

Grange Melodies.

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Every lady sending us the names of 20 house-keepers will receive a copy of THE HOME MAGAZINE FREE for two months.

To those who may be desirous of sending us more than 20 names, we offer the following cash prizes for the largest lists received, viz.:

- For the largest list.....\$20.00
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- " " third " "..... 5.00
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- " " fifth " "..... 2.00
- " " next to largest lists, \$1.00 each 10.00
- " " 20 largest lists, 50c each 10.00

Rules Governing this Competition:

1. All names must reach us not later than December 1st, and all prizes will be mailed not later than December 10th.
2. Put the names of those living in different towns on separate sheets of paper, giving the name of the state and county in the top right-hand corner, and the number of names contained on the sheet in the top left-hand corner. Thus,
 KANSAS,
 Mrs. Henry Brown, Olathe.
 " Amelia Duggan,
 " Charles Semple, box 370,
 " Amelia Warren.

3. Give the total number of names contained in your list in the letter accompanying the same.

4. Be careful to write as distinctly as possible, and on one side of the paper only.

Names of the prize winners will be announced in January, 1892 number of THE HOME MAGAZINE.

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

Down in Dixie.

NO. 2.

A day in Mobile gave us an opportunity for sight-seeing and a ride down the shell road along the bay. Since the days of gravel roads, this shell road has lost something of its prestige. While it is kept up in excellent condition, there are many streets in country places in our state where the gravel roads are as good, yet frequently lack that constant attention to making repairs which makes this shell road an agreeable drive the year round. Mobile is famous for large fine oysters. We saw an oyster boat being unloaded of its 100 bushels, and were entertained by an explanation of the manner of gathering and "planting," while we experimented on the different methods of swallowing one of the big "plants" that the genial "nigger" opened for us. "Plants" are the small oysters gathered outside the bay—range cattle as it were—and sown broadcast over the allotment of water farm, staked out by the owner in the muddy bottom of the shallower parts of the bay. Here they grow and fatten on the rich alluvium washed down by the rivers. In a year or so after planting, they attain the size of one's hand, and the "meat" would make a medium-sized boarding house order for "steak." A raw hand at eating one of those oysters raw, makes a ludicrous exhibition of himself. Several of the "press gang" took turns at the trick, while the others jeered or applauded as the effort was successful or unavailing.

Mobile has an excellent harbor and many hundred miles of navigable rivers. Cotton and other products are brought down from the interior of Georgia and marketed in Mobile. A line of steamers makes regular trips from here to Havana, and the travel and business from the north and northwest are both coming this way to reach tropical climes and tropical markets. Northern enterprise and northern capital have invaded the sacred stolidity of the old regime, and Mobile begins to thaw out and put on the evidences of her coming prosperity.

The route from Mobile to New Orleans runs along the border of the Gulf, and nothing very attractive, either in scenery or in production, meets the eye. It however seems to be a very fertile region on which to plant

summer resorts. A somewhat pretentious depot building, a short shell road, and a monster hotel, with the accompanying curio dealers and the carriage driver, serve to complete a seaside watering place, that is a stunner on paper and a terror to those economically inclined.

Along on this railroad are many inlets of the Gulf over which we pass on piling, and on the intervening marsh lands it is said by a Boston paper that the engineers in summer have to toot the alligators off the track. We are not in league with the proprietors of the resorts mentioned to decoy travel that way by repeating it, for we believe sea serpent stories and others of that ilk are "played" for such purposes; however, one of our party insisted that he was paid \$400 per year for saying: "Have-you-used-Pear's-soap." in the wash room every morning.

We arrived in New Orleans late in the afternoon; our car was backed on a side track, and this was our retreat for three nights and two days. A committee of citizens and business men came in carriages and took us to the Opera House to see a leg-itimate performance—the popular title is forgotten; but as all bills were paid, it is looking a gift horse in the mouth to attempt criticism. The next day at 11 o'clock the same carriages appeared and gave us a delightful drive over the city and out to the Exposition grounds where this unfortunate show languished in the rain for a month or two and then folded its tents. The only building left is the horticultural hall. The asphalt walks and drives are nearly obliterated by intruding verdure. The excavations where lakelets were planned are dry, and the protruding water pipes point to speedy dissolution. There are promises of a park there some day, but a cane or a cotton field is more probable.

We were treated to French opera that evening. A large and aristocratic Creole element was in attendance, and it gave us an opportunity to see this class of New Orleans residents which would otherwise not have been enjoyed. The Creole proper has no colored blood in his veins. He is of French or Spanish extraction and quite exclusive in his notions. The ladies have a creamy white complexion with no tinge of color to the cheeks, and lack that vivacity which beams from the countenance of our northern women. What shall be said of French opera? The harmony of the choruses was excellent and charming; fifty voices on the stage, and fifty styles of dress (or want of it) with a background of beautiful scenery, made a grand sight and a good deal of sound. We ventured to point a borrowed opera glass at the gaudy personages on the stage, but kept a discreet silence upon the merit of the performance. It was a satisfaction, however, to know that the play was written in French, for it relieved us from the strain of trying to interpret the stagy language of the actors. Our mother tongue is so outraged by a stilted stagy brogue, that even our amateur singers and actors try to reflect it and become asinine in their efforts to copy it. There are no sweet songs with a tear in them sung nowadays anywhere. They all generate a sneeze rather, and a creepy feeling to the nerves, that may possibly be tortured into an ecstasy by a generous use of the imagination, or some intricate sense as yet undiscovered in our make-up.

The next day we were taken on

board a river boat and went up the Mississippi, past the ocean steamers tied to the docks, as far as Nine Mile Point, to inspect the levees in process of construction. The river here is eating its way into the left or city side of the river bank, and threatens at no distant day to break through and flood the whole town. The old levee is cut through during this period of low water, and the sand and debris carried through to the new levee which is being constructed ten or fifteen rods farther back—the land on which it is being built having been condemned by the state for that purpose. On our way back we crossed to the other side where a huge crevasse had been stopped by a railroad company about a year ago. The river here was making a new channel for itself to the Gulf, and might in time leave the city of New Orleans on a bayou.

The state of Louisiana is making some reasonable demands upon the general government for an annual appropriation for maintaining the levees along the lower Mississippi. Her people say that the whole valley above pours its waters down upon them, and it is unfair to expect them to take care of this deluge at all times and under all circumstances unaided. We believe their petition for aid should be granted, and thorough work be begun at once to maintain the river bed where industry and enterprise have built in a fair expectancy of its permanence.

Three miles down stream from the city is located the national cemetery. The boat took us to this interesting spot. We noticed many names with "Mich." marked beneath them. It is a quiet, orderly place, and well kept. A soldier from the garrison near by was carried in and buried with military honors while we were there.

The last evening of our stay we were again taken in carriages to the home of Capt. Thos. J. Woodward, in Chestnut street, where a grand reception in honor of the Michigan Press Association was held. Capt. Woodward sailed ocean vessels for many years of his life, and was captain of one of the Union gunboats during the war. At this reception also were several Confederate officers, and a more genial set of men one need never wish to see. The speeches were generally moderate in their expressions upon tender points, but clamorous for an occasion to show how well the South could fight for the old flag again, side by side with their Northern countrymen. The Chili sensation was then unsettled, and had war been proclaimed half our entertainers would have been in arms, if we might take their expressions as evidence of their readiness to fight. New Orleans welcomed us with open arms and hearts, and bade us adieu with evident regret. Early the next morning we were on our way to Pass Christian, (accent on the last syllable), where the day was spent along the shore of the Gulf, and where the letter for the last number of the Visitor was written. We shall have something to say about Florida in our next, and describe some of their enterprises.

A letter from O. W. Van Dyne, of the Van Dyne House, Lansing, informs us that he again occupies the old stand, and the doors are wide open for his Grange friends when they come to Lansing. The Visitor will be on file and the editor found there when in the city.

By Comparison.

Copies of papers, printed in the State, come to our table having titles that imply that they are the "organs" of some one of the farmers' organizations, and they are asking recognition on their merits. Two pages of these sheets are printed at the place of issue, and the remaining six pages come from either Chicago or Cincinnati, along with a lot of advertisements that thus get a hearing, and float the remaining part of the six pages nominally free to the publisher. The greater part of the matter of these gift columns is flap-doodle and gush that must be gulped down with a grimace. In many instances the publishers would do their readers a service to suppress this superfluity and only issue a two-page sheet, for which they are responsible and for which they pay for type-setting and mechanical work. The six pages are a fraud, in that they assume to reflect the opinions of the editor, represent his selection of advertising matter and to cost him as much per page as those printed at home. Four-fifths of their readers are fooled by such fraud and pay their dollars in blind adoration of the business capacity that can "set up" such an array of reading matter for so little money.

Compare the present issue of the VISITOR, and every other issue that has ever been published, with these subterfuges. Every line of reading matter is set up in the office in Paw Paw, and every article has been read with care by the editor and selected because of its value to the page upon which it is printed. These articles are not mere accidental clippings, but represent the reading of many that are discarded for the one thus preserved. We present in every issue eight carefully edited pages, and we submit that this labor for a paper ought to place it, by comparison with the apologies described, as much in advance of them as the labor and ability expended upon them represents. If it were required that these papers should copy after the VISITOR there would never come for them another publication day. That a paper "all wool and a yard wide" should be traded off for "shoddy" is a discredit to the astuteness which farmers have a reputation for. Show the VISITOR in comparison with all the other organs. We will gladly submit to the test and abide the decision.

Selling "Futures."

The Washburn bill against the sale of options now being considered by the committee on Agriculture in Congress, is stirring up tremendous opposition from members of Boards of Trade in all the large cities. Evidently the machinery for making money with facility is in danger. Strangely enough their chief objection comes through the fear of loss to the farmer—an apprehension which needs no evidence to prove is simulated for want of argument that has real force against the bill. A Detroit objector says: "As it is now, every farmer can go to his nearest buyer, at any season of the year, and contract any portion of his crops for any delivery that he sees fit, at a good market price; whereas, with the present system of trading done away with, he would be obliged to sell to consumers or to exporters only, at such prices as they might see fit to offer."

The farmer is, and has always been, in this latter position, and they never have practiced the methods suggested, and never

will. The inference is that he can now gamble in produce if he chooses, that is: "sell any portion of his crops," or a great deal more than he has raised if he has the "margins" to "put up." It is equivalent to an offer to divide the chances to make or to lose money with the farmer if he will stop his clamor against selling wind.

Even a bucket shop might be tolerated in every town, if the farmers will patronize it and stop howling against the big one in the city. The difference is only in degree, and the attempt to suppress the former by the more pretentious concerns is a practical illustration of Satan reproving sin.

The facts are that selling futures is the greatest curse that has ever struck the farmers of America. The hog product, for instance, has not paid the cost of its production for the last ten years. Meanwhile, the pork packers, by selling the product ahead of the marketing period, have so manipulated prices as to become millionaires several times over. The "option" is a squeeze for every one below the operator, and the farmer being the last factor in the line, takes the rind, the pomace, the slag, after the valuable profit is all squeezed out.

On our return through the South over the Queen and Crescent route from Chattanooga to Cincinnati, we passed the young and growing town of Harriman, whose location was selected by General Clinton B. Fisk. It is pleasantly located on Emery river—a picturesque mountain stream, and has grown to a population of 4,000 in two years. It claims to be the Birmingham of Tennessee, with facilities for iron manufacturing equal to that of its rival in Alabama. Iron, coal and limestone are here at hand and easily mined, and already the hum of machinery is heard and the smoke of furnaces is seen over the mountain tops.

As might be expected from the moving spirit in the enterprise, the liquor traffic is shut out by enactment and forfeiture for violation; so that it is a temperance town and its citizenship a select one. Persons contemplating a change of climate, with incidental business opportunities, or business opportunities with incidental climate, are directed to the the secretary, whose notice appears in another column.

The lecture fields of the state are being cultivated quite effectively. We are getting good reports from correspondents of the seed which has been planted, and the fruits are already being harvested in new names to our list of subscribers.

Look at your record opposite your name on this number, and see if you are not likely to be shelled out and lost when the blue pencil sweeps over the list next. Send your neighbor's name with your own—a dollar bill is now the prevailing fashion for the new year's compliments to the Visitor.

On Feb. 1st, after the Visitor was printed, we received a notice of a meeting of Branch Co. Pomona Grange to be held on the 11th. We regret not having been able to publish it, as it contained an excellent program, but wish our friends to remember that notices for publication must be at hand at least one day before the paper goes to press, and should be even earlier, as we are often put to great inconvenience by so many late arrivals.

Ionia County Grange News.

Ed. Visitor: At the meeting of Ionia Co. Grange No. 16, held at Floral Hall, Jan. 21, 1892, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Master, Wm. Mattison; Overseer, H. J. Hall; Lecturer, Mrs. L. J. Barnard; Steward, Wm. Howard; Ass't Steward, Guy Hall; Chaplain, Miss Betsey Butler; Treasurer, A. Inman; Secretary, C. J. Goodwin; Gate Keeper, L. J. Barnard; Pomona, Mrs. H. J. Hall; Flora, Mrs. Amon Otis; Ceres, Mrs. Allen Inman; Lady Ass't Steward, Mrs. Wm. Mattison.

An interesting meeting was had. The report of the State Grange was read by Brother Barnard and wife, delegates to the State Grange, and seemed to be appreciated by the members.

Brother David English and wife, delegates from the Western district, were present and gave a short report. Brother English seemed deeply interested in the Grange Visitor and the oil question; thought the Grange should look well to it. He was on his way to Banner Grange to install their officers that evening. The Worthy Master also appointed him as Special Deputy for the county.

We were proud to see the many Grangers that were represented at the Farmers' Institute, which met with grand success; so much so, that our Worthy Master (President of the Institute) thought they had better meet some future day and talk it over, and perhaps, might have one another year. So much for the farmers of Ionia county. When they know they are right they go ahead.

The Ionia County Grange is a charitable class of people, for we do feel grateful for our sister state of Nebraska for its appreciation of the charity we so generously extended to them in their misfortune. May they ever be blest with plenty, until every farmer's home shall have brighter hopes before it.

Much credit should be given to Woman's Work, as it aided our Worthy National Master in carrying out his appeal to every Grange to assist the stricken brothers and sisters of Nebraska, by bringing it before the Grange and contributing to their wants, for which they have thanked us. May the Lord bless them.

Our next meeting will be held at Banner Grange, Thursday, Feb. 18th, for the purpose of installing officers and such other business as may come before the meeting.

MRS. L. J. BARNARD,
Ch'm W. W. Grange 16, P. of H.

Postal Jotting.

Peninsula Grange No. 663 holds its own in membership and interest. We are practically out of debt; own a fine hall, and large shed for teams. We receive the Congressional Record and profitably discuss public questions. Free discussion of these questions we consider part of Grange work, and when conducted properly, suppressing partisan feeling sufficiently to be courteous and just, it cannot fail to be beneficial in every sense; adding to our knowledge, broadening our views, and training those taking part in public speaking.

We meet at 2 p. m. every alternate Saturday, and close promptly at four, with the result of an increased membership—especially of sisters, who are thereby enabled to arrive at home in time to get supper. We have a valuable library of 100 volumes, besides the Congressional Record, which we keep on file, and a complete set of the "Journal" of the last Legislature. It is well, when discussing public questions which involve the laws of our State and Nation, to have the text of the bills for their amendment before us; also the arguments for and against the bills as made in the halls of our State and National Legislatures.

WM. D. BAGLEY.

We very heartily commend to our readers' consideration the ad. of Mrs. J. F. Belden. Mrs. Belden is thoroughly reliable and honest, and she certainly offers bargains. Mrs. B. is one of our old subscribers and we hope she will be patronized liberally.

EATON RAPIDS, Jan. 19—Ed. Visitor: I have read the report of the Executive Committee of the State Grange with great interest. It is one of the greatest productions that ever emanated from any deliberative body. The Grangers of Michigan must feel proud that they have a committee that is capable of producing such a document. I certainly do. Their report strikes the key-note on the financial question and the railroad monopoly, and it seems to me that if their recommendations and suggestions are acted upon and carried out by the government, it would solve two, at least, of the great questions that are troubling the minds of the people at the present time. It would benefit all classes greatly, with the exception, perhaps, of the railroad companies. Will it be published in pamphlet form? It certainly should be. I hope the proper authorities will attend to it and see to it that a goodly number are printed, so they can be had for distribution. It should be read by all the industrial classes. Our congressmen should study it and act on its suggestions. If it can be read by the farmers generally it will help to increase our numbers and the influence of the Grange all over the country. Yours truly,

A. D. SAXTON.

[The report alluded to above was published in the Dec. 15th and Jan. 1st numbers of the Visitor, and a few copies can be had in pamphlet form by addressing this office and sending stamp for mailing.—Ed.]

North Branch, Jan. 15—Ed. Visitor: The Lapeer Co. Pomona P. of H. No. 29, met with Montgomery Grange on Jan. 15, which held its secret session in the parlor of Bro. Montgomery's residence. Dinner was served by Montgomery Grange. It was a dinner which we enjoyed like the dinners of our mothers in our childhood days. It would have even made the editor believe that he was a welcome visitor, had he been there. After dinner we repaired to the school house, where the doors were thrown open to the public, and the house was filled by an intelligent lot of people, young and old. Good music was furnished by the young people of the neighborhood, both in and out of the Grange. Judging from the music rendered they all will soon be members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, at least we hope so, for they are the right kind of timber to build with.

Some splendid papers were read, especially Mr. Erwin's on "Ancient, Modern and Future Schools," which drew forth some very interesting discussion.

Rev. C. B. Clark, of Marlette, gave us a splendid lecture on temperance. Mr. Clark woke up to the spirit of the subject and put body, mind and soul into the work, and all were much pleased with his lecture.

Brother H. Bradshaw called out a lively discussion on his subject, "The Mortgage Tax Law."

Much interest was manifest throughout the whole meeting, and, all-in-all, it was one of the best Pomona Granges ever held in the county. At the close of the open session we repaired to the parlor at the home of Brother Montgomery, where we were soon summoned to tea, which was not a whit behind the dinner in point of excellence.

At the evening session the officers were elected and installed. E. E. OWEN, Sec'y pro tem.

Allegan, Mich., Feb. 8, 1892—Ed. Visitor: As I have not as yet seen any notice of our Grange "Silver Anniversary" in your paper I thought I would send just a word about it, as it was our County Council meeting day. The entertainment was a success in full. Sister Harriet Hurd gave us a good and hearty Address of Welcome, and our young brother, Homer Leggett, of Watson, responded finely. The Leggett family gave us some very nice music. The call for the neighboring Granges to unite with us in appropriately celebrating the day was nicely responded to by several Granges, and some fair reports as to the success of their Granges was made. The officers for 1892 were duly elected. Result of election as

follows: Pres., N. W. Howser, of Watson; Sec'y, M. L. Vahue, of Allegan; Treas., Wm. H. Dibble, of Allegan; Lect., N. A. Dibble, of Allegan. There was also a Vice President elected, but cannot now say who it was. Elder Harvey, of the Presbyterian church of Allegan, gave us a fine address, which he closed by reading that humorous poem, "If I were a farmer." I think it was entitled, "We'll enjoy it very much indeed, for which the Council, in a body, gave thanks."

There was estimated to be about 175 present, and I think every one present was glad they came. One thing certainly spoke well of our success: there were some young people present that wanted to join us, even though they were not members of the Order at all. That to me was of much value, as it showed an appreciation of good work. Some of our young people have already shown quite a bit of talent, and we believe there is more to follow. Of course our Constitution and By-Laws do not make it possible, legally, at present, but we hope to be able to reach and interest them the best we can. Our open meetings have been a fine success and the interest increases, which certainly is encouraging—seven new members joined that day. An invitation to hold the March session of the Council at Hopkins was extended and accepted, and we shall have a good and profitable time I feel warranted in saying. Sister Mayo's presence will add much to the pleasure of the meeting. N. A. DIBBLE.

Allegan, Feb. 8, '92—Ed. Visitor: Allegan County Council, P. of H., will hold its next session, March 1st, with Hopkins Grange. The morning session to be called to order at 10 o'clock. Hopkins Grange will furnish music on call. Sister Belle Andrews will give the Address of Welcome. Sister Alice Cook, of Otsego, will respond. Some papers that were to have been presented at the December meeting will be read. Sister Mary A. Mayo, of Battle Creek, will give an address; probably the first thing after the song in the afternoon exercises. She has been actively engaged in Grange work for years, and this fall and winter she has been very busy and will come well posted on every thing that pertains to the "Good of the Order." We trust she will be greeted by a hall full of wide-awake listeners, young and old. I for one can testify that she is greatly interested in the young, and we hope they will be interested in what she says to them. We shall try to have a good program carried out in case of any failure on the part of Sister Mayo to be present; but she will not fail us, as she expects to be in the county from Feb. 29 to March 5, and will speak in Watson Grange Hall, Hopkins and Rural Grange halls, and it is undecided just who will receive the other two lectures. I will here say that any Granges in the county failing to secure her will have an opportunity to hear Bro. Jason Woodman (nephew of Hon. J. J. Woodman) during the week, beginning March 14 to 18 inclusive. Granges wishing to secure his services will do well to report as soon as possible to Mrs. N. A. Dibble, Allegan, Mich., box 254, who has been lately appointed Local Deputy of Allegan county. In this meeting of the Council I would respectfully request that our young people, in or out of the Order, will aid in the program in ways best suited to their taste. Let us also be as prompt as possible in the opening of the session. All interested are cordially invited.

MRS. N. A. DIBBLE,
Lecturer Co. Grange.

Bass River, Ottawa Co. Mich., Jan. 25—Ed. Visitor: Our Grange is doing finely, conferred 3rd and 4th degrees on a class of 11, Jan. 23; that makes us 45 members in good standing. I think this showing will please Bro. Mars and Jason Woodman, also Sister Mayo, as they all gave lectures here while we were nearly dead for three years; there were only seven members to keep it alive. Yours fraternally,

MRS. E. D. KNOWLTON,
Allendale Grange No. 421.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE P. O., Mich., February 8th, 1892. ED. VISITOR.—After the affliction that came to us in the fall in the death of Mr. Thompson, of diphtheria, it was thought best to have all rooms in every dormitory thoroughly cleaned and fumigated. The work has been in progress during the winter. More than a thousand pounds of brimstone have been used in disinfecting. After each room was cleaned its contents were put back, but the carpets have not been put down nor the furniture arranged, as it was thought that students could do this work to their own satisfaction. It will be well for the young men to come back on February 19 or 20, if possible, so as to put their rooms in order. Steam will be on the halls and there will be accommodations for board.

In the general prevalence of disease throughout the county during the winter, the people of the campus have not escaped. The sudden death of Mrs. Kedzie, on December 17 made a sad time for all. Others have been seriously ill, but all are now well, or getting well. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, grandfather and grandmother of Mr. Herbert Harrison, of the chemical department, died within a few days of each other, and both were buried yesterday.

Somewhat extensive improvements have been in progress in the arrangement, finish and equipment of the Mechanical Laboratory, which will add much to the convenience of students and to the facilities for instruction. Improvements have also been made in the Horticultural Laboratory, and additions to its equipment. The gallery along the south side of the library will be finished before the term opens, and large additions will soon be made to the books on Agriculture, Horticulture, Mechanics, Mathematics, English Literature, History, Political Economy and Education. Mrs. Landon is already here and at work.

The Farmers' Institute have been successful beyond expectations. In the illness or enforced absence of some of the old members of the faculty some of the "subs" have come to the front in a very efficient manner. They are doing such good work that there is danger of jealousy on the part of some of us old fellows, and so of a "fuss in the faculty."

The Chair of Agriculture has been filled by the appointment of Professor Harwood. He graduated at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and has been, for some years since graduating, a practical farmer. We have reason to expect the best work from him, both in the field and in the class-room. Professor McNair of the Wisconsin State University, has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics. He and his family are already at home in the Terrace. Mr. R. J. Coryell, '84, has taken Mr. Hall's place in the Department of Horticulture, and with his family is quartered in the Terrace.

Professor Edwards and family had a tussle with "la grippe" not long after reaching Paris, but they soon recovered, and have since been enjoying themselves well. Professor and Mrs. Cook and Bert have been doing the Pacific coast. I met them there twice—once in one of the charming valleys of South California, and once at a town among the mountains of Nevada. They seemed to be having a thoroughly good time. Professor Noble and wife have spent the most of the winter at his old home in Iowa, where he was called the day after the fall term closed by the death of his father. Professor Woodworth has had a profitable winter in Berlin. He will be back in time for his classes. Professor Vedder is at Cornell, and so is Professor Van Dervort. Mr. Goodenough is at Ann Arbor, and Mr. Hedrick also. Dr. Beal is now in Washington studying his "Hay," of which the second volume is far on the way. Professor Holdsworth and family went to North Carolina expecting to spend the winter, but the climate there was too rigorous and they soon returned to warmth and comfort in the Terrace, convinced that there is no place like home. Professor Corbin has been doing some college extension

work—lecturing on Political Economy. Most of the other members of the faculty and of the station force have been on the grounds all winter, except Prexy. He has just returned from a ten weeks' visit to California. He reports that the visit was much enjoyed and did him much good.

Professor Davenport writes in good spirits from Piracicaba, Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil. His work prospers and has large promise for the future. Professor Thurtell finds himself happily situated in Nevada. Mr. C. F. Baker, assistant to Professor Cook, has accepted a good appointment in Colorado. Mr. Glidden of Paw Paw, member of the Board, has recently married and with his wife has been visiting Florida. Hon. C. W. Garfield, '70, of Grand Rapids, member of the Board, has been seriously ill but is improving. His wife died a few weeks since, one of the numberless victims of "la grippe."

The "faculty kids" have been increased by the arrival of a twelve pound boy at the home of Secretary Reynolds, and of a fine by at the home of Dr. Grange.

I started out just to tell the boys that they will find their rooms cleaned and in disorder, but I have run into a long letter of college news. We shall be glad to see you back, and hope, well you would call the rest a chestnut, so I will stop.

Very sincerely yours,
O. CLUTE.

Farmers' Institute.

Following is the program of the Farmers' Institute to be held at Gobleville on the 17th and 18th inst:

Opening, 10:30 a. m.
Music—Instrumental.
Prayer.
Address of welcome, G. W. Myers.
President's address, E. A. Wildey.

Afternoon Session—1:30.

Music—Quartet.
Paper—Hereditary Diseases of the Horse—Dr. E. W. Bartram, Paw Paw.
Music—Solo.

Paper—Fruit-growing as a Specialty and for the General Farmer—N. W. Lewis, Gobleville.

Discussion opened by Geo. Hopkins, South Haven.

Paper—Road-Making, C. W. Young, Paw Paw.

Discussion opened by E. J. Dayton, Waverly.

Music—Quartet.
Evening Session—7 o'clock.

Music—Instrumental.
Paper—Commercial and Farm Dairying—Hon. Milan Wiggins, Bloomingdale.

Discussion opened by Seth A. Frisbie, Alma.

Music—Vocal.
Paper—Formative Influences—Mrs. N. H. Bangs, Antwerp.

English Farm Methods—G. E. Breck, French Farm Methods—J. J. Woodm'n Recitation.

Music—Instrumental.
Thursday Morning—9 o'clock.

Election of officers and miscellaneous business.

Paper—Sheep raising for Profit—C. B. Charles, Bangor.

Discussion opened by Geo. M. Lyle, Decatur.

Paper—Our Banking System—C. J. Monroe, South Haven.

Music—Vocal.
Afternoon—1 o'clock.

Music—Vocal.
Paper—Transportation of Farm Products, W. C. Wildey, Paw Paw.

Discussion opened by Jason Woodman, Paw Paw.

Paper—Dreaming and Doing, Mrs. G. D. Millsaugh, Gobleville.

Recitation.
Paper—Chemistry of the Farm, A. C. Glidden, Paw Paw.

Recitation.
Paper—The future of our Live Stock Interests, A. W. Haydon, Hamilton.

Music.
Every one who has any interest in farming, directly or indirectly, is cordially invited to attend and participate in the discussions that will follow each paper. The people of Gobleville are prepared to entertain those from a distance, so no one need fear they will be *de trop*.

Harrows.

Ag'l College, Michigan,)
Sept. 5, 1891.)

Gentlemen—You ask our opinion in regard to the Whipple Harrows, manufactured by the Whipple Harrow Co., of St. Johns, Mich. In reply will say that I congratulate the Company on being the possessor of tools that so completely realize the objects to be obtained, especially in the proper culture of corn, viz: level and thorough surface tillage. It is most emphatically a success, and is bound to please when understood. The several and variety of adjustments of the teeth are the strong points attained—the ability to work close to the corn without disturbing the roots. Most truly yours,

EUGENE DAVENPORT,
Professor of Agriculture.

Ladies' Department.

Winter.

O, Winter! ruler of the inverted year,
I crown thee king of intimate delights,
Fireside enjoyments, home-born happiness,
And all the comforts that the lowly roof
Of undisturbed Retirement, and the hours
Of long, uninterrupted evenings know.

Here the needle plies its busy task,
The pattern grows, the well-depicted flower,
Wrought patiently into the snowy lawn,
Unfolds its bosom; buds, and leaves, and sprigs,
And curling tendrils, gracefully disposed,
Follow the nimble fingers of the fair.

The poet's or historian's page, by one
Made vocal for the amusement of the rest;
The sprightly lyre, whose treasure of sweet
sounds

The touch from many a trembling chord shakes
out;

And the clear voice symphonious, yet distinct,
And in the charming strife triumphant still,
Beguile the night, and set a keener edge
On female industry: the threaded steel
Flies swiftly, and unfelt the task proceeds.

—Cooper.

One by One.

One by one thy duties wait thee,
Let thy whole strength go to each;
Let no future dreams elate thee,
Learn thou first what these can teach.

One by one—bright gifts from heaven—
Joys are sent thee here below,
Take them readily when given,
Ready, too, to let them go.

One by one thy griefs shall meet thee,
Do not fear an armed band;
One will fade as others greet thee,
Shadows passing through the land.

—Adelaide Dean Proctor.

A Chapter on Rags.

Ever since Brother W. R. in the Visitor, made his able plea in behalf of rag carpets, I have wanted to tell him that his zeal in that one direction blinded him to the many other uses of rags. At first thought we hardly realize how much space in the household economy is occupied by the rag department, or how its management, or mismanagement, affects the dust, moths and general order of an establishment.

The happy possessor of abundant room does well to set aside a closet or small store-room for the reception of such articles as are no longer suitable for present use, taking care both that they are clean when stored, and well protected from injury afterward. Those who have not enough closet-room may use, for cast-aways, packing chests, dry goods boxes, lined with paper, or even manilla sacks, closely tied and hung to bare rafters.

Occasionally, when a breathing time comes,—preferably some rainy day, when out-door work is impossible, callers improbable, and the children at school—have a general "clarin' up" spell.

New pieces left over from the making of garments should be carefully laid aside, so long as there is a chance of needing them for repairs, afterward they may be dealt with at the round up.

The painstaking piecing of bed-quilts I abjured long ago—unless there is a young girl to be initiated into the mysteries of "over and over,"—but good-sized squares may be cut from new pieces either woolen or cotton goods and sewed on the machine into quilt covers.

There is a great deal to be said about half-worn and out-grown clothing. The economical and unselfish housewife never classes, as a rag proper, anything which can profitably be made over or "passed down," either in her own family or any other.

In a large family connection, or among familiar friends, the out-grown blouses, kilts, and dainty baby clothes fit out some smaller cousin or playmate to perfection and save the busy mother hours of toil.

After the trousers of fathers, uncles, and big brothers have become unrepresentable, they make over nicely for the wee ones, whose mothers have "gumption," and it's a badly worn suit of grandma's or auntie's that has not enough left to make a blouse or skirt for a little girl. It is well for every mother whose friends do not need these aids to have in mind some family in limited circumstances, where the children are a little younger than her own, and where out-grown clothing will be gratefully received, if there is even a little wear left in it, because it saves not only expense but so much weary sewing. This is far better plan than to bestow what you have to give upon the first strange beggar that comes to your door.

Be careful how you reduce

your stock of old sheets and pillow cases. I learned long ago to patch the sheets and fold them away for use in cases of severe illness; one can hardly have too many. Fine pillow cases make the best of bandages, and it is well to have some prepared and rolled, ready for use.

Save soft strips of flannel to bind sore throats, and generous woolen cloths for wrapping up hot bricks and bottles and to use when hot fomentations are needed. Put them where you will not have to hunt long for them some night when croup, colic, toothache or neuralgia, among the youngsters has created a panic.

Cut the worn feet from old stockings. Save some of the legs to protect wrists and arms in berry-picking and fruit-packing time, and put the rest in the mending bag, to repair stockings that come to grief hereafter, for it is never wise to mend hose or knit underwear with unyielding patches. Old stockings also make the very best of mops.

Portions of underwear that are not too thin may be used for mending or, cut in small squares and overcast, they make excellent wash-rags.

The back breadths of cotton dresses make very good kitchen aprons, but their term of service is usually short so do not embroider them. Old handkerchiefs make the softest of wash-rags for little babies, or of bandages for ailing fingers and toes, and are especially nice to lay between tender flesh and a hot poultice.

Now we have saved about all we can, and may consider the question of rags, pure and simple.

I believe the making of rag carpets an enterprise of very doubtful profit; still, most of us are guilty of it once in a while, and I think I have reduced the labor and expense to the very lowest notch, since I cannot persuade myself to total abstinence.

It seems to me that Bro. R. does wrong to insist upon those expensive dyes, and his gorgeous fancy stripe. His will cost more than a store carpet and makes so much work. Besides, who wants a bright carpet, any way, to kill every other bit of color in a room?

Heaps of cotton clothes will wear out, especially where there are children. I tear large quantities of colored ones at once and keep a basketful handy all the time.

It is surprising how many balls of rags can be sewed when you are too tired to hunt for patches or cut out work. It's a fancy work that taxes eyesight and attention so little that it's easier to do than nothing at all, for that often makes me very nervous, perhaps, because I am out of practice.

When a neighbor drops in to chat for a few minutes, when some one is sick or asleep and you do not want to run the machine, or while one of the family reads aloud, catch up your rag-basket. At our house, when all the young people happen to be at home at once, if amusement fails, at any moment I am ready to propose carpet-rags, and set both boys and girls at it. I get many a lift that way.

I never use fancy dyes, but color enough white rags, brown and drab, at one time, to scatter through many yards and mix with the indigo blue that most of us have so much of, to determine the prevailing tint of my hit and miss carpet.

I shall never make any other. Weavers will usually charge but one shilling a yard to make this, and from fifteen to eighteen cents, where they bother with stripes.

Then I shall only use the white warp, because it outwears the colored, and I shall buy the fine instead of the coarse, because it sinks into the wool and is not worn by passing feet, like the larger thread.

Twenty cents buys a pound of warp, which is supposed to be sufficient for three yards of carpet. This and the weaving brings the cash outlay down to a little less than twenty cents a yard. I have bought carpet, woven of new rags, at forty cents per yard, although fifty is the usual price. We must judge for ourselves whether we can afford to furnish our work for the price. I should think not, unless we can make the process very simple.

After the cotton rags of suitable thicknesses are prepared for a carpet (and every woman knows how to make a machine help in various ways), there are many woolen and thick cotton strips that are just the thing for those heavy braided rugs, such as our grand-mothers used to make.

I do not take much stock in any other home-made rugs, because they will not lie down flat and stay there.

If you have dark woolen rags, plenty of a kind, you can make a nice-looking one, but it will last just as long and do as much good if your braid has each strand of a different color, and one made entirely of my hit and miss is not to be despised.

With my large family and small house, it would be about impossible to keep the floors of my living rooms carpeted were it not for these helpers.

But about these same rugs—necessary and serviceable as they are—I warn you there will be tribulations. Man has his limitations. The average man is alive in every nerve—especially the pocket nerve, when money for a new carpet is wanted, but dead to all assurance that the tolerance of these hated rugs will postpone the evil day indefinitely.

Tell him, over and over again, how restless little feet and his own heavy boots wear thin spots around the stove, and in front of the organ, lounge and book-case, before the rest of the carpet is hurt at all, and he will persist in thinking, either that you consider the homely article an ornament, or that it is simply a malicious invention of yours to bring him low.

You will never reform or convert such a man, but you know you are right, so go ahead with your rugs; and, after they are in place, if you see Bro. R. coming, meet him at the door with a perfect gush of cordiality, pilot him tenderly over the man-traps, land him in an armchair, with the tidy securely sewed to its back, and talk him so blind that he cannot see his pet aversion.

After all other sorting is done you will have quite a collection of paper rags.

Oh, yes! I know the peddler will only give you twenty cents for half a dollar's worth, and pay you with a tin dipper worth not more than ten cents in any store in town, and which will begin to rust in less than twenty four hours, but remember, the chief benefit to you lies in getting rid of the rags. You have to keep a small rag-bag in the sitting-room and large ones in the wood-shed and chamber, as aids in keeping things tidy, so it's easier to collect them than not to do so.

JENNIE GILMAN AVERILL.

Two New Social Games.

New games are a delight to the people who do not play cards, but still enjoy some recreation during the long winter evenings. A game played during our summer outing, and new to all except the lady who conducted it, was entered into with great zest. It consisted in representing the titles of well known books and plays by a picture, drawing, or some arrangement of objects, so that it could be guessed from them, rebus fashion. Of course the disposition of prizes was as usual; no game is complete without them nowadays, despite the protests of the many who disapprove of unnecessary extravagance. However, we shall change all that in time. To return to our game: about thirty took part in it. Fifty titles had been selected by the hostess, and their representations carefully prepared. Each player having been provided with a paper on which there were fifty blanks for these titles. At the signal we entered the room where the objects and pictures were displayed. Some titles were known at once, others remained unguessed to the end. "The Light of Asia" was represented by a candle on a map of Asia. The letter "S" cut from red paste-board was "The Scarlet Letter." The sheet music of some popular songs was "American Notes." An O half concealed in a bunch of ferns was "Inferno." A toy donkey, an O, and some tea-leaves was Donkey-o-t—"Don Quixote." Some vocal music thrust through the handles of several keys was

"Songs in Many Keys." A burnt out match was "The Light that Failed." The possibilities of this game are seen at a glance. With brightness and ingenuity many puzzling and amusing effects can be worked up. Another game which is very entertaining to quick-witted young people, is thus described in "Christian Union." The players should be arranged on two sides, as in a spelling-match. One side should be called the Pros and the other the Cons. The person chosen as the head of the Pros begins the game by starting a story in which each clause of every sentence must contain at least one word having the prefix pro, as promotion, provoking, etc., and as many more words of the same sort as can be recalled at the moment. Six sentences should be given in rapid succession, but none of the words beginning with pro must be repeated, and no word beginning with con must be brought in. When the speaker makes a mistake he is counted out. Directly he comes to a stop the leader of the opposite side must take up the tale, using con in the same way, and rigorously excluding pro from his narrative, until he, too, shall either fail or complete the requisite number of sentences. Then the second player in his opponent's ranks shall continue in a similar fashion, and so on, back and forth, until but one player be left. Some one must keep count, and the side that has altogether scored the greater number of words shall win the victory.

French Collegiate Study for Girls.

The most popular courses or courses of lectures are decidedly those of the College of France. This famous institution is unlike other colleges in having no students, properly speaking, and in teaching not only the classical courses, but everything within the range of human knowledge worth teaching. It is a body of forty-two professors, representing every known branch of learning, who give courses of instruction on their special subjects, which are free and open to all, without distinction of sex or race, whether candidates for degrees or not. It is probably the most advanced school of learning that exists. The renown of its professors is world-wide, and as it comes under the immediate direction and patronage of the Ministry of Public Instruction, it is a special pet of the government, and never lacks means to carry out its most ambitious schemes. Many hundred women attend its lectures, and they are not all advanced students or those preparing for university honors; for it has been a popular thing in Paris, the last twenty years or so, for bright young girls, even of the most fashionable families, to follow certain of its courses during the last few years of school life; that, from about their thirteenth to their eighteenth year.

It will readily be seen that it would be impossible to compare a French girl who has studied four or five years at the College of France with a girl graduate of one of our co-educational or girls' colleges, for the reason that she does not follow a prescribed course of studies, and is not required to pass examinations. There are opened to her the finest opportunities for advanced study that the world affords, but, unless she goes up to the University examinations and takes a degree, there is nothing to prove whether she has simply been taking elementary courses in rhetoric, natural history, and physics, for example, or whether she has been pursuing profound studies in metaphysics, international law, and Sanskrit, and making original researches in the latest thing in science or medicine. Many young girls, daughters of wealthy and fashionable families, who are educated at home by their parents and governesses, go to the College of France for a limited number of special courses. The courses most popular among these young girls I found to be all branches of history, literature, the history of literature, rhetoric and composition, natural history and physics, while a few studied logic, psychology, and political science. They were instructed at home by private teachers in modern languages, music, arithmetic, penmanship and letter-

writing, sewing and embroidery, and various domestic accomplishments, while some who had a taste for art worked several hours a week in studios. They usually took three or four courses at the College each year, with two or three lectures a week in each. Those who had taken the requisite courses went up to the public competitive examinations of the University at the Hotel de Ville to try for the diploma qualifying them to teach. This diploma is the ambition of every bright French girl, whether she means to teach or not; and as examinations are open to all, even to pupils of private schools, upon the payment of a small fee, girls of the wealthiest and most aristocratic families, who have been educated by governesses or at the most exclusive convents, do not hesitate to go up to the Hotel de Ville side by side with the pupils of public colleges and normal schools, and so have made these competitive examinations the fashion of the educational day.

In going back and forth to the public lectures, the girls are always accompanied by one of their parents or by a governess, and these chaperons sit in the classroom during these lectures, and often take as lively an interest in the courses as the girls themselves. When the parents are persons of leisure, it is their great delight to accompany their children in this way, and to help them afterwards in studying the subjects at home. As a general thing in France, parents, fathers as well as mothers, take a much more active interest and larger personal share in their children's education than is common with us.—Miss H. C. Dana in Atlantic.

Man's Best Friend.

A man's best friend is a wife of good sense and good heart, whom he loves and who loves him. In woman there is at once a subtle delicacy of tact and a plain soundness of judgment which are rarely combined to an equal degree in a man.

A woman, if she is really your friend, will have a sensitive regard for your character, honor, and reputation. She will seldom counsel you to do a shabby thing, for a woman always desires to be proud of you. At the same time her constitutional timidity makes her more cautious than your male friends. She, therefore, seldom counsels you to do an imprudent thing.

Rely, then, on her wisdom and faithfulness, and scorn the thought of proving unfaithful to the tenderness which, should occasion demand, would impel her willingly to die for you—as when the brutal Emperor Claudius commanded the death of her husband, the wife, Arria, stabbing herself, handed him the dagger, with the immortal words, "Pætus, it does not hurt."—Lord Bulwer Lytton.

Home Happiness.

It makes little difference in true home happiness whether you own your house, or have one little room on the sixth floor of an apartment house.

You can make that one little room the perfection of all that is worth living for, a quiet harbor to which a husband will turn, feeling that he has run out of the storm of his day's work into the security of something that is real.

We are not all born with the sunshine in our hearts, as the Irish people prettily term it, but we can all coax some of it in there if we only try.

The faculty of seeing the bright side, or, at least, the edges of that side, is one that married people might cultivate with profit to each other.

Courtesy is of more value in the home than many believe it to be. It is easier to love a person than it is to be always courteous to him, and yet it is one of the most valuable recipes for keeping that love fresh within our hearts.—Household.

The Dial.

Receives many shades, and each points to the sun;
The shadows are many, the sunlight is one.
Life's sorrows still fluctuate: God's love does not,
And his love is unchanged, when it changes our lot.

Looking up to this light, which is common to all,
And down to those shadows, on each side that fall
In time's silent circle, so various for each,
To it nothing to know that they can never reach
So far, but that light lies beyond them forever.

—Owen Meredith.

Winter.

I asked of Winter, Dost thou come With Death's cold shadows round thy feet...

Then, like a still, small voice, to me Methought there came this sweet reply "There is no death. I come to thee...

"My snow is not a winding-sheet, Wherewith to wrap my barren bowers, But it is love's soft coverlet...

"Dream not of death, for if thou dost, My flowers will rise, some merry morn, Like little babes of hope and trust...

-Samuel K. Cowan.

A Good Citizen.

Did it ever occur to you that a good Patron is, perforce, a good citizen? Now in this connection we do not use the expression...

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