

GRANGE VISITOR

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

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WHOLE NO. 394.

ROADS.

A System of Organization for Road Improvement.

PROF. H. K. VEDDER.

Unfortunately the question of better public roads is one very near to the tax payer's pocket book. This necessitates dealing with it more or less on the basis of profit and loss. Realizing this necessity, some over-zealous advocates of good roads have been led, perhaps unintentionally, to adopt a deceptive method of estimating their cost. The assumption is made that the expense of construction will be no more in America than the cost of similar work in European countries but a just estimate based upon such data must take into consideration the disparity of laborers' wages as well as the different conditions of distance and severity of climate. In our northern states, for instance, frosts will penetrate the ordinary road covering to twice the depth affected in France, whose roads are a favorite basis of such comparisons. Notwithstanding these elements of increased cost, figures are not wanting to show a large balance to the credit side of the account, favoring systematic road improvement, even when the item of comfort is not included, a consideration that Americans are becoming more and more willing to pay for.

Of course it cannot be maintained that all our roads are bad, for there are noticeable exceptions where favorable local conditions of character of soil and surface material at hand, combined with enterprise of the community, have resulted in providing satisfactory roads. But even these, except very rarely, are not of the class properly denominated permanent, and can not be compared to roads whose direction, slopes, drainage and composition have been determined by the skilled engineer with a view to their greatest usefulness and their future maintenance at a minimum of cost and labor.

The report of the commissioner of agriculture for 1888, sums up the condition of American roads as follows:

"While our railway system has become the most perfect in the world, the common roads of the United States have been neglected and are inferior to those of any other civilized country in the world. They are deficient in every necessary qualification that is an attribute to a good road—in direction, in slope, in shape and service, and, most of all, in repair. These deficiencies have resulted not only from an ignorance of the true principles of road making, but also from the varied systems of road building in force in the several states of the Union, due to defective legislation. The principle upon which the several states have based much of their road legislation is known as the road tax system of personal service and commutation, which is unsound as a principle, unjust in its operations, wasteful in its practice and unsatisfactory in its results."

A good deal might be done to better the condition of highways, under the present mode of management, however unsatisfactory that system may be considered in a general way. The pathmaster's duties seldom extend beyond the improvement (supposed) or maintenance of existing roads. If then that official can be taught some of the very simplest propositions of the road building art, and can be taught at the same time that it is as easy to apply them as it is to apply no particular rules at all, it

may follow that the tendency to right methods may prevail and much improvement result. To this end the Grange, the press and the institute are expected to become diffusers of education on roads; and it must be said for the newspapers that they are fulfilling their share of the expectation.

It may seem too trite and well known a fact to state here, that common gravel as it comes from the bank is not a proper surface material. A rough screening will double its efficiency as a road metal. And yet it is by no means common that attention is paid to so simple and valuable a fact. Again, if a covering of this material is to be applied to a depth of, say one foot, the benefit will be increased in about the same ratio as above if only a part of that depth is prepared and allowed to become compact from pressure of vehicles, or better still by rolling, before the addition of another layer. Another point to be borne in mind is that water, including its form as frost, is the greatest enemy to good roads. The beneficial action of sun and wind is not appreciated as it should be. It would be expected that a tunnel through a mountain would be a damp place, and a road through it could hardly be kept in satisfactory condition. Yet it will not be difficult for anyone to recall examples of roads, even main thoroughfares in our most populous districts, in which the beaten track is little more than the floor of a tunnel whose sides and top are formed of bushes and tree branches. The sun shines in a few minutes each day, and the wind can pick up the moisture from the surface perhaps once a month when it happens to be blowing from that point of the compass towards which our road is directed. Improvement cannot be expected until the drying effect of sunshine and wind is utilized to the fullest extent possible.

There are comparatively few road experts in this country and the reason is obvious. There has been little opportunity to study failures. It does not need to be said that the present general system is a failure.

As an engineering problem, the subject presents the more difficulties because the tax payers are not willing to become experimenters. Indeed it can hardly be assumed that they are ready to pay for something that has been tried and proven to be of advantage beyond all doubt. And our country affords too few examples upon which to found a system of construction that shall meet all requirements. The government at Washington, recognizing our lack of experience, has caused its consuls at the various foreign stations to report on the history and present methods of road improvement in the several districts. These reports are combined in a State document and are now being studied by many of our students of roads.

One important conclusion to be drawn from these reports is that road systems are at their best in those countries in which the matter is placed wholly under the supervision and management of thorough engineering skill. And why should this not be expected? The perfect system means a network of permanent roads, perfect in every attribute enumerated earlier in this article. The same problems are presented in the location and construction of railroads, and to meet them requires a well organized corps of trained engineers. Would it not be well to direct public opinion and legislation to an organization based on similar principles? Let there be

established an office of engineer of roads for the county, or if the counties be small, arrange for the employment of one such official by two counties. The county engineers should have power to appoint, and to dismiss when necessary, for incompetency or misconduct, a sufficient number of assistant engineers whose duties shall be to assist in making surveys and to personally superintend all construction and repair to be made in their districts.

The engineer should be answerable to a county board of road commissioners of three members, who should have power to impose and collect taxes for the maintenance of the system, and who should attend to the matters of contracts and all questions of money connected with the proper administration of their trust. The board should be non-salaried, but should be allowed mileage and expenses to cover times of meeting and trips of inspection. They should give oath and bond sufficient to guard against the temptations of political corruption. They should in turn be subject to the inspection of a State board of roads, perhaps the same board that should have charge of an institution to be suggested later.

The work of the county engineer would consist of the preparation of maps, location of needed roads, preparation of estimates for constructing the same, as well as estimates of the cost of all repairs and maintenance to be carried on, which estimates would form the basis of the commissioners' tax levy. Also he should give as much personal attention as possible to superintendence and inspection, and receive reports of assistants, all of which should be made matters of enduring record.

Besides these details of organization, any legislation looking toward the improvement of roads should include a plan of state aid to the townships and counties. A classification should be made calling certain main thoroughfares state roads, and for their improvement and maintenance the state should bear as much as half the burden of taxation. Two other classes should be made, namely, county and district roads and taxation imposed accordingly.

The successful working of the proposed plan of administration of roads implies of course that the present labor system should be abolished. There seems to be too clearly a case of "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," and our salvation appears to lie, not in teaching everybody how to make a road, but in making it somebody's exclusive business to attend to the matter.

But the question arises, where shall be obtained the competent engineers and assistants needed for such an organization as has been outlined; for as has been hinted there is a scarcity of skilled laborers in this field. Again, road improvement is largely a problem of locality and the materials at hand in one district may not be found in another, or the quality of the same sort of materials may be just enough different in two sections to render a road built of them in one place comparatively useless while a similar construction is wholly efficient in another place.

The writer sees in all these things the necessity for and probable great usefulness of a new institution to be created and supported by the state. Its name may be the State Road Experiment Station. It may combine the features of a school of roads, a testing laboratory and an experiment bureau. As a school it should

offer to young men an education in the principles and theory underlying road engineering, while by a judicious adaptation of the experiment features of the station the students could be largely trained by practice as well. As a testing laboratory the station should be prepared to receive and report upon the qualities of road materials to be sent from all parts of the State, with reference to their general adaptability to the purposes of construction. And finally as an experiment station, by a careful selection of site, with reference to much traveled thoroughfares, experience will be accumulated and object lessons furnished that of themselves will make the venture a profitable one for the State.

Agricultural College, Mich.

TARIFF—PROHIBITION.

ROBERT L. HEWITT.

There are many economic questions under discussion by the American people at the present time. Tariff or free trade, free and unlimited coinage of silver, the issuing of money and the loaning of it to the people at two per cent, and the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage, is only a partial list, though it probably includes every question that has any considerable number of advocates. In this no one tariff question is placed first because it commands the attention of the entire people, and prohibition is placed last because it is believed that, as a party issue, it has less friends than any one of the others. Yet considered solely as an economic question prohibition is of vastly more importance than the tariff.

It is said that there is expended annually over the bars of this country for drinks nine hundred millions of dollars. We have no means of verifying this statement and it is not necessary that we should verify it, as it has stood for years practically unchallenged. Now compare this sum with our foreign commerce.

The total exports of merchandise in the fiscal year 1891 amounted to about 872 millions of dollars, or 28 millions less than was expended for drinks; add imports, 845 millions and we have a total of 1,717 millions or 817 millions more than was expended for drinks. But if we could obtain fairly accurate statistics of the increased taxes and increased expenditures for charity on account of the pauperism and crime caused by the liquor traffic, who shall say that these amounts added to that expended directly for drinks would not make an amount much greater than the aggregate value of our exports and imports in the year named? Unquestionably such expenditures, could they be ascertained, would prove the accuracy of the statement that prohibition, considered without reference to the degrading and demoralizing influence of the liquor traffic upon the individual and the community, but solely as a question of dollars and cents, is far more important than that of tariff or free trade.

Why, then, is it that the tariff question commands the attention of all the people, and prohibition of the liquor traffic of only a handful? The American people are proverbial for the money making propensity, and a reduction of taxes is among the demands of political parties. Why, then, do we neglect or refuse to assail that which causes so much of poverty and adds so greatly to our taxes?

The answer seems to lie in the

fact that the tariff question, which was repeatedly under hot discussion before the evils of intemperance were known or prohibition was thought of, has at length gotten such complete possession of the minds of all thinking people, and particularly of voters, that until it shall have been definitely and finally settled, no other issue, however important, can displace it. The tariff question has been a leading issue during the entire lifetime of the Nation, indeed it antedates the formation of the government. It was one of the leading questions under discussion just previous to the convention that drafted the constitution, and one of those for the settlement of which it was found necessary "to form a more perfect union." It was the first question discussed by the first congress; it was the leading question in 1816, and a vital issue in 1824; it was compromised in 1833, contested in 1842, bitterly fought over in 1844, and fought out in 1846; and in 1861 it was a subject of legislation resulting in the establishment of a policy that has not yet been overturned, though not approved by a very large minority of our people. This question, hoary with years, is the one question today that will not down.

But the tariff question having been so long under discussion without a final settlement being reached, is there any assurance that it will ever be settled? The only reply to this is, if one policy or the other, tariff or free trade, shall be maintained for a few years under such conditions as to afford it a fair trial, then we shall be able to determine whether or not such policy, whichever it is, is the better for the country. The fact that we have several times changed from high protective tariff to free trade and vice versa, does not argue against the correctness of this view. Present conditions are very different from those that prevailed in earlier years. Tariff or free trade is now and will continue to be solely a business question. Under which policy will the material interests of the country be the more rapidly advanced, which will give to the people of the United States as a whole the greater prosperity, is the only question now asked or to be answered. We have no longer a "peculiar institution" located in and dominating over one-half of the country, whose interests are opposed to all interests of the other half. Each and every section of the country is today interested in the material welfare of the entire country, and it may be presumed that each and every section will cheerfully acquiesce in any policy best for all so soon as it shall be demonstrated to be best for all.

But it may be urged that the tariff question being out of the way some of the other questions named will be forced to the front. This is hardly probable. Those questions are of little importance as compared with the question of prohibition. Besides, it is believed that the settlement of the tariff question will also settle them. They are questions born of the needs of the farmers. Give us higher prices for our crops and there will be more money in circulation, which will in turn cause a reduction in the rate of interest and make the rate of profit of the farmer to more nearly correspond with the rate of profit of the money lender, and on business investments. These ends, it is confidently asserted by adherents of both sides of the tariff

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Field and Stock.

WHY SHEAR WITHOUT WASHING?

GEORGE W. STUART.

In complying with your request to prepare a short article for the VISITOR, on the subject "why shear without washing," it carries me back many years to the time when this question was one for consideration among intelligent wool growers, "as well as breeders." At that time, ten to twelve years ago, when this subject was being discussed at the sheep breeders' association meetings, and at different periods since, by a few who had followed the old plan of soaking themselves annually for the purpose of gratifying the ignorance of a few so-called wool buyers, injuring their health, damaging their flock, and debasing their intellect, as well as keeping back the popular tide of progression that ought to obtain in every intelligent community.

Washing sheep and riding horse to cultivate or plow corn, and coking up all the hay before hauling, hoeing corn, and plowing out ditches in wheat ground, all belong with other foolishness I might mention, to the ignorance of the past. And before giving any special reasons for discontinuing the practice of washing sheep, or the other practices mentioned, I will simply say that I have never found any necessity or desire to go back to the old systems, and will still farther say that in my observation the better and more progressive farmers of the present day either have already or are fast abandoning the practice.

Among the reasons for shearing without washing I might name, the first is that you don't improve the condition of the wool, while in fact it is made considerably worse so far as appearance is concerned, as has been often stated and universally conceded to be true by all manufacturers. I have never talked with one who claimed that any advantage accrued to them by washing the fleece before it was taken from the sheep, but several have asked that the practice be abandoned as unnecessary and as causing a great amount of contention among the different buyers, from a lack of proper discrimination in well or poorly washed fleeces, the facts being that the quality of the wool is much better shown in an unwashed fleece, than in one half washed, or soaked enough to begrim and destroy the luster. The matter may be summed up in the well established opinion of all concerned that washing the wool before shearing does not improve its condition.

But the complaint is made and is no doubt to a certain extent true, that the buyers make too much difference between washed and unwashed fleeces. If so this can be remedied by sending the clip to eastern markets, where it is bought and sold more nearly on its merits. But the better and the proper way is to quit washing. "Everyone quit washing," Horace Greeley said the way to resume was to resume. Now as I have said the more progressive farmers have resumed, and have simply refused to wash their sheep, and it is my opinion that a kind of sheep that you have to wash to make them profitable to keep is a kind that it don't pay to keep.

But as to the advantages gained by shearing without washing; second, having shown, or it being generally conceded, that washing does not improve either the sheep, the fleece, or the man (that is washing the man with the sheep), we will find various reasons for not washing. We can shear earlier, save the expense and annual loss, and have our wool in market from one to three months earlier, saving interest on carrying our clip for this time, relieve the ewes from the burden of carrying the fleece so much longer when suckling, and through the heat of early summer, as it is not always suitable weather for washing before the last of May or first of June.

I have no doubt but by early shearing, say in April, the fleece can be increased from one to two pounds per head; this I think is conceded by the best breeders and wool growers. Again, the practice of shearing before the lambs are dropped, adopted by many breed-

ers, gives the lambs access to the udder, and adds vigor and activity to the ewe; before which she is weighed down with fleece and is inactive and indifferent to her lamb. I have found several breeders who have lately adopted the plan of shearing their ewes before the lambs are dropped, as Messrs. Ball, Wood, Dewey and others. Our experience proves it to be, as we think, the better way.

Another great advantage in early shearing is ridding the flock of ticks. Of course there is not so much danger with thoroughbred Merinoes; but the grades or any open wool sheep are more or less infested with ticks, especially the long and middle wool sheep. If shorn before the lambs are dropped they will rid themselves of the pests, but if not shorn until the lambs are beginning to show fleece the ticks will go to the lambs. I have seen coarse wool lambs covered, and scarcely one to be found on the dam a few days after shearing. This is the case with all sheep of coarse or fine wool, the long open wool being more subject than the close, oily fleeced ones. Early shearing, with good feed, will rid any flock. There are many other reasons that might be named or that come along and are noticed and appreciated in early shearing; and early shearing means "without washing." One advantage is in having the job off our hands before the rush of spring work; another, the protection against worms, "maggots," that infest the flock as soon as warm weather comes, especially our best and heavy fleeced sheep. Above all and perhaps the most important item is the condition of the early shorn flock. They will begin to thrive as soon as the fleece is removed, and with a little care and bunching in a close shed for a few days the danger of cold is avoided, and when the fleece is from three to four weeks old a sheep will stand a cold day or storm about as well as the lambs of that age, or when in full fleece.

Then again the advantage of keeping the fleece from mud and dirt by shearing before the sheep are turned out is of great importance. When in full fleece and with a grade flock, usually subject to some storms and often turned onto plowed fields or running in lanes that are muddy the fleece is sure to become dirty. By having the lambs dropped early and the shearing and trimming of the lambs done before flies come, you are ready to give full attention to farm work and have no special anxiety about your flock. And as before said, if you choose to ship your wool to the eastern market, you can realize from one to three months earlier and save interest on the value of the clip.

I see that a party in Fenton is now buying earlier shorn wool—Burdick Potter. There is no special reason why the wool market should run along until June and July, except for the delay caused by these fellows who think they must cling to the old plan of washing. The sooner the plan is abandoned the better it will be for all engaged in the sheep business. The wool clip will then be bought upon its merits, as all is west of the Mississippi. No one thinks of washing in the west and the profits of the flocks are just as much, and the full value is received quite as readily as here.

Grand Blanc, Mich.

BEAN CULTURE.

HON. WM. BALL.

In many parts of this State, as well as in others, the cultivation of white beans for market has become an important branch of industry in agricultural economy, and any information concerning such industry will be of value to those interested in their culture. The comparatively high price of beans for some time past, as compared with wheat and other produce of the farm, together with an increase of protection afforded by the McKinley bill (so odious to friend Goodrich) have stimulated the desire for their production, and many farmers who have not engaged in their growth in the past will plant more or less the present season. To make any crop profitable, as much as possible should be produced per acre with the least cost in its production. That the crop shall be profitable a

number of things should be carefully considered:

First, The probable amount to be raised in the United States or the world, and the probable amount needed for the necessities of the markets;

Second, The adaptability of the soil for the best growth of the grain.

All kinds of soil are not well adapted for the cultivation of beans. The old saw that "the land is so poor that it will not raise beans," is misleading, as it infers that land so poor that nothing else will grow, would raise beans. Beans require fertile land in good condition, to insure a paying crop. Heavy clay soils, or low, very rich mucky soils are not adapted to profitable bean growing. The former does not grow them rapidly enough and the latter produces too many and too vigorous growth of vines. The best soils for their production are sandy loam, gravelly, or rich sandy soils.

This fact should not be overlooked by those who expect to make it a part of their business from year to year, viz.: That beans are an exhaustive crop and should not be grown too frequently on the same soil without liberal applications of manure. Bean growing in the vicinity in which I live has been carried on quite extensively for a number of years, and my observation teaches me that frequent cropping of the same fields, not only rapidly exhausts the fertility, but renders a good catch of clover very doubtful; a matter to be carefully guarded against by every farmer.

In their cultivation I will give my opinion, gathered from observation and from my own experience in raising them.

After deciding which fields to plant, the best plan is to plow them as early as possible in the spring and work the land thoroughly until time to plant, which should be between the 10th and 20th of June. A majority of farmers plant them with planters, rowing both ways; rows being about thirty inches each way, planting from six to ten beans in a hill. The plan which suits me best, because I think more can be raised per acre and the work done much better and cheaper, is to drill them in, using roughly three pecks of seed to the acre, depending somewhat upon the size of the beans used for seed. I use an eleven hoe drill (called the "Farmers' Favorite"), and it drills three rows to the width of the drill 30 inches apart. The drill saves the marking of the ground and the work can be done better and cheaper than can possibly be done by hand.

No weeds should be allowed to grow in a bean field any more than in a garden or corn field. Within a day or two after the beans are drilled or planted drag the ground over with a fine cutting harrow. This levels the ground and aids in cultivating nearly as soon as the beans are in sight. Cultivate often as long as can safely be done before the beans begin to blossom. Some plant earlier than indicated above, but it is a good plan to do as much killing weeds as possible before drilling or planting, and later planting is advantageous to such a plan. Ground where corn has been grown the year previous is desirable, if the land is not too weedy. I have had good success on sod ground plowed the fall before and worked as early in the spring as possible, and up to the time of planting. If the ground becomes baked or hard by the rains of winter one of Bement's disc harrows will cut up the ground so that the planter will take hold of it and soon fit it for the finer drag. With beans drilled or planted thirty inches apart the Albion or other good spring tooth cultivators will be found a very desirable tool for cultivation. In harvesting I use the Albion bean puller which puts two rows together in good shape for the fork and man which should follow shaking them from the dirt and placing them in winrows of six rows each, the double rows giving ample room for team and wagon when they are dry enough for the stack or barn. In stacking care should be taken to make the stack narrow, not over ten feet in width, and then cover well with marsh hay or something that will effectually protect them from the rains until ready to thresh. It is a good plan to let them sweat and cure in the stack for two reasons: more can be secured in threshing if dry, and then they can be safely put in bins.

There is some difference of opinion as to the best kinds of beans to raise but I think much of it arises from professional seed growers who offer inducements to farmers to raise certain kinds for seed for them expecting such to become advocates of their particular kind of beans. Of late the market has been to some extent for a large sized bean, but the last winter I received five cents per bushel more from the fact of their being very even and small, the smallness due to the severe drouth that prevailed when they were maturing.

Upon the whole, with beans, as with most other matters, a medium between two extremes is a very good bean to plant, and a very good rule to follow.

Hamburg, Mich.

MARKETING WOOL—A BUYER'S VIEWS.

E. C. ROBERTS.

The custom of marketing wool in June, immediately after shearing, is so well established in Michigan that comment is unnecessary. Consequently the question to be considered is, the condition it should be in to make the grower the most money when sold. The day of wild speculation by inexperienced buyers has ended; growers can no longer sell their wool at a "straight" price on the sheeps' backs, regardless of quality and condition.

The evil effects of such unbusinesslike methods have reacted; and today Michigan fleece wool is relatively two cents per pound lower in the eastern markets, than it was four years ago, and it is looked upon with distrust and suspicion by manufacturers, because of the uncertainty of its condition. Michigan wool growers are now losing, by the relatively lower prices their wool sells for east, all, and more than they made by selling grease, dirt and worse for wool, the past four years.

Grease, dirt, sheep skins, dead lambs, old rubber shoes, salt, plaster and wool twine will not make cloth, and cloth makers do not care to buy such stuff at wool price.

Wool growers of Michigan must put their wool up well and honestly. If they wash it they must wash it clean and shear it before it gets dirty again. They must keep out of the fleeces all sweat locks and tags, either washed or unwashed, and tie it up with just sufficient string to hold the fleece together, and they must all do it.

This article does not propose to discuss the question of washing or not washing, that is an entirely different subject; but wool if washed should be well washed. It seems superfluous in this age of civilization to ask people to be honest because it pays, but it seems to be necessary in the matter of marketing wool. And the whole ground could be covered by simply saying "be honest and thorough."

There is one other thing I would urge upon the wool growers who wash their wool, and it is a question that causes more hard feelings and loud talk than any other one thing pertaining to marketing wool, and this is about "discounts."

In all large flocks and in most small ones, there are some fat weathers or old ewes, that cold creek water washing won't make clean, and this unmerchantable wool is "docked" or "discounted" by the buyer. If the grower would sort out such sheep before washing he could sell their wool for as much per pound unwashed as he could get for discounts, have a few more pounds to sell and avoid the inevitable quarrel over docking. The gain to the farmer is plain; he sells more pounds and saves the hardest part of his work in washing.

The buyer buys the wool on its merits, and there is no question of its value. The custom of using too much twine is a state evil, and it should be discontinued at once. Still it must not be forgotten by the advocates of one string tying that our Michigan fine wool will not hold together with a one string tie; there should be not less than three strings on a side.

Tags should never be put in the fleeces, whether they be washed or not. They will bring more money sold unwashed than they will well washed at X wool price.

Lapeer, Mich.

See page 5 for "The Farmer's Vegetable Garden."

SHALL WE CULTIVATE ORCHARDS?

A. S. DYCKMAN.

In the light of my experience and observation it appears, as to all fruits except apples, there can be no doubt of the utility of cultivation.

I have seen such good results in certain apple orchards without cultivation, where manure was liberally applied, that it is still a question with me whether apple trees should be cultivated or not. I rather incline to the opinion that the ground should at least be turned over once in two or three years.

I have had many years' experience in peach culture, and that is the appropriate word. For culture (cultivation), is one of the talismanic words as applied to the raising of peaches. The question here becomes rather how and when shall we cultivate?

Unless there is some green crop growing to be turned under late in May or early in June, I like to plow early enough in April so that the cold earth thus brought to the surface may become warmed before the blossoms appear. Some plow very late in the fall, just before freezing up time, turning towards the trees and leaving a furrow in the center between the rows to carry off surplus water. This answers the double purpose of drainage (important in certain lands), and winter protection to the trees. It also does away with the importance of early cultivation in the spring.

From the time when the peach blossoms are out of danger of frost until some time in August the ground should be kept as thoroughly cultivated as for corn.

After this it should be sowed to some crop, as rye or clover, or both together for green manure, or otherwise left without cultivation, to stop the growth of wood and ripen it for winter.

I have been most successful with pears, having them low-branched, by leaving a little sod about the foot of the tree and cultivating the rest of the ground between the trees. I have less blight.

South Haven, Mich.

THINNING STONED FRUIT.

G. A. HAWLEY.

Improved methods of doing business, and all kinds of husbandry; are being adopted every day. The writer, in youth, used the sickle, then the grain cradle, then the mowing machine, then the reaper, then the reaper and raker. Now my neighbor sits on his reaper and binder and turns the standing grain out in bound bundles. The most noticeable is the improved method of planting and caring for fruit trees; especially peach trees.

Only a few years ago a fruit grower in our successful peach belt, Oceana county, Mich., told me one of his peach trees commenced to bear at three; when six years old it bore so many peaches it died. He said with much emphasis that he was well satisfied with that tree, it had paid for itself over and over again. Now we do not let our trees bear themselves to death, we thin them. By thinning we mean, pick off the green peaches when quite small.

If you have a small orchard, pick them off, especially if they do not hang very full. If a large orchard, it is a slow process. If heavily loaded trim the tree tolerably severe, especially when the twigs stand near together, cut some of them out; if some limbs are stretching out ahead of the rest cut them back, and the limb that hangs directly over another limb full of fruit. Instead of picking them off use a pair of shears; in that way they can be cut off very fast. After you have thinned as high up into the tree as you can reach; drive a light wagon under the tree and stand on or in that. This should be done two or three times, in fact you should go through your orchard, to every tree, as often as once in two weeks, not only to thin them, but to trim, bolt, grub them, etc. (perhaps more anon about treatment of trees). They should not be nearer than 4 inches, in some cases 5 inches is better; thin them thoroughly this year and next year you will thin them still more.

Have had ten years' experience, and have 5,000 fruit trees in the village.

Shelby, Mich.

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PATRONS—At the last session of the National Grange the following regulation was adopted and made a part of section IV, paragraph 57, page 64, of the Digest:

"It shall be the duty of the Lecturer of Subordinate Granges to report to the Lecturer of the State Grange at the end of the March and September quarters, giving a report of the literary work within their Grange, the State Lecturer to summarize the same and make semi-annual report to the Lecturer of the National Grange."

I have arranged the following plan for uniform and systematic distribution and circulation of the best essays and papers read in our Order to be used by Lecturers in their "Lecturer's Hour," which ought never to be omitted from the exercises of any Grange, and which every Lecturer will provide for if the obligation and instructions given at installation are lived up to.

We will suppose there are 100 Subordinate Granges in a State. In compliance with the rule of the National Grange each Lecturer twice a year reports to the Lecturer of the State Grange and forwards an average of five of the best essays or papers read in the Grange. This places in the hands of the Lecturer of the State Grange 500 essays or papers. He selects one out of ten (fifty in all), and forwards them to the Lecturer of the National Grange. With thirty States complying, this gives the Lecturer of the National Grange 1,500 of the best.

The Lecturer of the National Grange then has printed slips with names of all the States and the names of the Lecturer of each State Grange, with postoffice address printed with his State. One of these slips is attached to each package of fifty essays, and one of them (package), is sent on its way to the Lecturer of each State Grange. The slip is also checked, so that this State Lecturer will know to which State Lecturer he is to send them, after their use in his own State, and so they will be passed along the line. For instance, a package of 50 goes to Alabama's State Lecturer; after using he sends to California State Lecturer (by mail); California to Colorado; Colorado to Connecticut, and so on alphabetically to the end of our grand national chain of States.

When the State Grange Lecturer receives this package and "National slip" in his office, he attaches to each essay a "State slip," containing the names of the Lecturers of each Subordinate Grange in his State (or, if thought best, only of Pomona Granges), (or if a large State, he can have four or five divisions, with package going the rounds in each), and the State Lecturer also uses such number of the original papers he started with (500) in addition to the National Grange package, and sends all on their journey around his State.

Each Lecturer, of course, understanding that after an essay has been used in his Grange, that it must be at once mailed to the next address on the slip attached, his own being checked off, and finally back to the Lecturer of the State Grange, who will, when those forming his National package have all returned, as before said, start them on their way to the Lecturer of the next State Grange found on the "National slip."

Now, just as soon as I have received from the Lecturers of five State Granges enough essays or papers to make "a trial trip," I will start them on their way in those five States, and as fast as other States co-operate in the work, they will be included also. WE CAN IF WE WILL. The way to co-operate is to co-operate.

I have frequently heard essays read in Subordinate or Pomona Grange meetings that were worthy of the widest circulation, and here seems to be a plan by which a

worthy sister or brother with literary attainments and aspirations may "mount the ladder round by round."

As in other pursuits and professions, many of the best writers of our country today had their early training upon the farm, and received their first inspiration direct from nature. Our Order, with its beautiful ritualism of field and forest, its lessons of the springing grass, and running brooks, "bud and bloom, sweet perfume," is leading thousands to higher aims and broader and better views of life. A noted divine once said: "Every book which interprets the secret lore of fields and gardens, every essay that brings man nearer to the understanding of the mysteries which every tree whispers, every brook murmurs, every weed even hints, is a contribution to the wealth and happiness of our kind."

Let us improve the opportunities the Grange offers in this direction.

Fraternally,
MORTIMER WHITEHEAD,
Lecturer, National Grange, P. of H.

OBITUARY.

All readers of THE VISITOR and all of the many friends of Brother and Sister Hinds will mourn with them in their recent loss, the news of which is conveyed in this simple, sad card.

Dead in Her 17th Year
Edna Hinds
Eldest child and daughter of
D. H. Hinds and Mary
Sherwood Hinds,
Stanton, Mich

Born
September 17, 1875
Died
April 30, 1892

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, An all-wise Providence has removed, by death, from our midst one of the charter members of Litchfield Grange No. 107, our esteemed brother, M. P. Herring,

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the aged wife and family of the deceased, and hereby express our sincere sorrow in their bereavement.

Resolved, That the charter of our order be draped in mourning for thirty days, and this expression of our sympathy be placed upon the Grange record and be published in the Litchfield Gazette and GRANGE VISITOR, and a copy sent to the bereaved family.

L. B. AGARD,
MRS. WM. McDOUGAL, } Com.
WM. MERCHANT,

The above resolutions were unanimously adopted at a regular meeting of Litchfield Grange held Saturday evening, April 30, 1892.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

Douglass Grange No. 650, at a meeting held in their hall on the evening of May 7, adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, Our Heavenly Father in His infinite mercy has called from our midst a loving and faithful member of our Grange, Edna Hinds, from earth to the realms above;

Resolved, That while we mourn her loss as a co-worker we express our heartfelt sympathy to her parents, sisters, and brother.

Resolved, That the Grange charter and her seat as lecturer of our order, which is vacated shall be draped with mourning for the term of sixty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the bereaved parents, brother and sisters, also a copy be sent to the Grange Visitor and county papers for publication.

MRS. L. ENTRICAN,
MRS. M. PINTLER,
MRS. W. JOHNSON,
Committee.

CHILDREN'S DAY.

Delta, Ohio, April 25, 1892.
TO THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY OF AMERICA:

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the twenty-second annual session of the National Grange, I hereby announce Saturday, the 4th day of June, as "Children's Day," and I hope every member of our order will earnestly co-operate to make it an occasion of pleasure and profit, not only to the children but to every member of our Order. Committees should be appointed at once to arrange program and make necessary preparations for the occasion.

It has been suggested that "Flora's Day" be held in connection with "Children's Day," and I see no objections thereto.

State Masters are requested to supplement this proclamation and lend all their influence to interest all in the exercises of the day. For good and sufficient reasons State Masters may select some other date within their jurisdiction.

Fraternally,
J. H. BRIGHAM,
Master of National Grange, P. of H.

In accordance with the above proclamation I proclaim the fourth day of June "Children's Day," for the Patrons of Michigan, and also that Flora's Day, be held in connection therewith. I trust all Patrons will make an extra effort to make this a day of pleasure to the children and profit to the Order.

THOS. MARR,
Master.

BITS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

Madison Grange, No. 384 was never in a more flourishing condition; twenty-four new members have been added this year, mostly young people under thirty, and coming from that class of our people that make the best citizens.

We are very fortunate in having an active energetic committee on woman's work. They secured the services of Dr. Morden, who last year took a trip through Europe; he gave an interesting account of his travels illustrated by the stereopticon. A small admission fee was charged which met the expenses and left a snug little sum for the "woman's fund."

MARY C. ALLIS,
Sec'y.

As I have not seen anything in the VISITOR from this section, I thought I would send you a small report of what we are doing.

We organized a Grange in the K. O. T. M. hall at Abbottsford, of thirty-two members. The outlook is that they will double their membership before January 1.

We believe this Grange is due to Sister Mayo's lecture there last fall, and the institute held there last winter.

We hope that this may be the result at all places where she lectured while here in St. Clair and Sanilac counties.

Let the good work go on. More lecturers in the field is what we want.
A. W. CAMPFIELD,
Dept. Organizer for St. Clair Co.

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ANOTHER CALL.

It may seem that we are asking a great deal of our readers. But we want to impress it upon the minds of those who have the benefits of the paper, and especially upon the Patrons of the State, that it is very essential at this time that we have their help. Patrons, the VISITOR is yours and self-interest demands your best aid for the paper.

The call we make at this time, in addition to those already asked, is that you send the VISITOR to some friend or relative, perhaps in some other state, who is not likely otherwise to get it. It will cost you but a quarter to send it to such a one for the remainder of the year. Especially if that friend is a Patron you will want him to see what the Michigan Patrons can do in the line of journalism. We are aware that this is a sort of missionary appeal, but the Grange is a missionary body, and, Patrons, we must have your help!

AN EXPLANATION.

It may be that some of our readers will feel that in presenting discussions of political questions, we are veering too much from the clearly avowed non-political attitude of the Grange. We wish to say that it is our conviction that every question,—every question—that concerns farmers as citizens ought to be studied by Patrons. No member of our Order can afford to hold to his opinions merely because they are his, but should study all sides of all questions. We believe that this can be done effectually through the GRANGE VISITOR. And to that end we desire to present from time to time able articles on these leading issues for the sake of their educational value. Each reader can draw his own conclusions and form his own opinions regarding each question—we wish merely to help him to a more intelligent conclusion. On questions of party issue we shall endeavor to present all sides fairly, but we do not care to allow discussions of such subjects. A jangle and unpleasantness would be the only result. We trust that our readers will appreciate the spirit in which these articles are presented and will make the most of them as means of arriving at a better understanding of the issues of the day.

HEALTH AT THE COLLEGE.

Considerable criticism has been passed recently upon the sanitary condition of the Agricultural College. Much of this criticism has been given in the spirit of fairness, some of it is evidently the product of overwrought feelings, and some of it has been made in order to use startling head lines.

From the experience and observation of a residence at the college covering a period of nearly six years, we are willing to affirm that it is an entirely healthy place. Indeed it is particularly so. The vigorous and robust health of the students is a matter of universal comment.

There was an outbreak of typhoid fever in 1886, and there have in the last six months been seven or eight cases of diphtheria. In neither instance however can it be proved that disease was due to bad

sanitary conditions. The condition of the out-buildings, it has been asserted, has been fearful. This is not true. There have been times every summer, when in the very hot weather they have been offensive—and this is a matter of criticism—but not at the times nor to such an extent as to warrant the statement that they have bred disease. The diphtheria outbreak did not occur until the cold weather of autumn had set in.

The wonder is that in these large dormitories there is not more sickness of a contagious nature. One room and a closet suffice for a house for two persons.

The system demands a place where the sick can be cared for. There ought to be a hospital where every man that shows the least symptoms of contagious disease or of other serious illness can be removed at once and cared for by a properly trained nurse. It is not the bad sanitary condition of things, thus breeding contagious disease, so much as the difficulty of restraining such disease when once established, that needs attention. Outbreaks occur here less frequently than nearly any where else. If there were proper conveniences for caring for patients the trouble would in our opinion be largely overcome.

The next legislature should appropriate a sufficient sum, \$20,000 perhaps, to build and equip a first-class hospital building. It has been asked for several times but never was judged of importance. The discussion over the diphtheria trouble may serve to show that criminal neglect, if there be any, does not at least belong to the authorities of the college.

GOOD ROADS.

We object to the term "Gospel" of good roads. However, the road question is an exceedingly important one and is just now coming to the front as a live subject. No one who has had any experience in the country districts has failed to see the necessity of better road-making and better road-keeping. But the complaints and grumblings have usually ended with the hopeless query: How can it be helped? There is little need of argument or of education as to the necessity of good roads. The efforts of men must be expended in devising means for building and maintaining respectable roads at a cost comparatively low considering benefits to be derived. How shall the roads be built? How shall they be kept in proper condition? Can we make the dirt road a success? If so, how cheaply can it be done? These questions must be answered largely by the practical engineer. Shall road improvement be a matter of local option? Shall the townships be responsible for their own roads? Or the counties? Or, shall we have State construction and supervision? Shall we have inter-state roads provided for at the National expense? These queries must be answered by the citizens, largely by the farmers. Strenuous efforts are being made by the leading bicyclists of the country to secure proper legislation on the subject. It is probable that a very complete display of material illustrating roads and road-building will be made at the World's Fair. The farmers are of course more vitally interested in this question than are the wheelmen, and should display even more zeal and energy in getting the matter placed upon a right basis at once.

Michigan Patrons can do no better than to think over the subject in all its phases, and more especially in regard to the nature of the legislation that should be demanded. We would like to hear

the views of many of our readers upon this latter point. Let the Grange bring its influence to bear in solving the road question wisely.

ANOTHER APPEAL.

We publish below an appeal from the legislative committee of the National Grange. We hope you will read it and act upon it. If the Patrons were as prompt in demanding the passage of the Paddock Pure Food bill as are the patent medicine men and men who make a business of adulterating food products in fighting it, the bill would become a law. Even the newspapers that ought to champion such measures ask that this bill be defeated, because they will lose a large advertising patronage. Every subordinate Grange in Michigan ought to act at once in this matter if it has not already done so. More than that, every man that can write ought to add his mite to the great volume of argument that would roll into Washington if the Patrons do their duty. Don't wait for somebody else. The fact that so much opposition has come up and that so many farmers have been derelict in their duty is all the more reason why we should now redeem ourselves, and promptly come to the aid of our friends who are fighting this matter for us. Here is their latest communication:

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE, P. OF H., WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 6, 1892.

We regret, exceedingly, the necessity of again appealing to you for help to secure some just and reasonable legislation, in the interest of the people and common honesty. The necessity for so doing should not exist, but that it does is unquestioned.

A few weeks since, it seemed that the Pure Food bill, and the Hatch bill to prevent the pernicious practice of gambling in farm products would both become laws. The probability of the passage of these just bills has at last aroused and alarmed all who are financially interested in perpetuating these wrongs, and every influence which can be brought to bear is being centered in the House of Representatives to prevent either measure from being brought to direct vote; as it is well known that few representatives will care to go on record against them. The opponents of the measures are so active, that although their supporters are as one to hundreds in favor of the bills, if yet their followers all speak (as they will), they will seem to outnumber the mighty hosts who are battling against fraud! corruption! and robbery!

We have reason to fear that a share of the wealth so easily obtained by selling compounds and frauds to those who suppose they are genuine articles, has been pledged for campaign uses. Men who would scorn a personal bribe may not be proof against the temptations to accept money to beat the other party, which is assumed to represent everything that is bad. The end may seem to justify the means. This is not intended to apply to politicians of one party more than another.

The danger is great and hence we ask one and all of you to address a letter, or what will be better, a telegram, to the member of Congress from your own district and a similar one to Hon. W. H. Hatch, chairman of committee of agriculture, urging them to exert themselves to bring these measures to a vote at the earliest moment possible.

We regret that we cannot say to your member of Congress, no man need expect hereafter to obtain a vote from a farmer who does not hear nor heed his just demand for reasonable and needed legislation. If we could truthfully say this, nothing more would be needed. As we dare not say this of the farmers, we know of no better way than to appeal to one and all to write plain straightforward letters or telegrams and speak for yourselves. If there shall be a general response to this last appeal the voice of the opposition will be like that of the noisy rivulet when

brought in competition with the thunders of Niagara.

Fraternally yours,
J. H. BRIGHAM,
L. RHONE,
JOHN TRIMBLE,
Legislative Committee.

PURE FOOD.

The adulteration of food and drugs is alarming. Good authority states that you cannot buy a sample of absolutely pure tea, coffee, or spices. These particular adulterations may not be harmful but they are dishonest. So with scores of other articles of daily use. Those who desire to investigate this matter should send to the United States Department of Agriculture for the recent Bulletin on the subject, No. 32 of the Chemical Division.

The measure that is now before the House for action is known as the Paddock bill. It provides for the inspection by the chemical division of the Agricultural Department, of foods and drugs that are sold in a State in which they are not manufactured; prohibits the adulteration and misbranding of such foods and drugs; and provides penalties for violation. Though it has passed the Senate there is danger that it will not be brought to a vote in the House. The opposition to the bill does not proceed upon strictly argumentative lines but consists mainly in rash statements and misleading insinuations.

One of the arguments brought against the bill is the cry of "vicious paternalism," which finally weakens into a feeble revival of States' rights doctrine. This matter of "iniquitous interference with personal liberties," when followed in the next breath by "leave it to the States," produces an inconsistency so absurd as to destroy all faith in the sincerity of the argument. It is no more iniquitous nor no more dangerous to liberty, nor really no more paternalistic, for the Nation to provide for the examination of foods and drugs than it is for the States to do it. It is simply an extension of the principles underlying present State laws—to which there seems to be no objection, but rather approval—to a sphere which the States do not control, namely, products of an interstate commercial nature. It leaves to the States every right that they now hold, and supplements their efforts by action in a field in which they cannot and will not act uniformly. Furthermore the failure of the present State laws to check the evil is abundant evidence of the need of national legislation.

Again we hear "It would be possible for the experts in the employ of the Government to use their power to blackmail manufacturers and to grow rich by discriminating against certain dealers and in favor of others." Does any sane man think that with the millions of dollars represented by the manufacturers of finished food and drug products, and the consequent ability to gain recognition in the courts and to employ private chemists to check any fraud on the part of the federal scientists; with the publication of results required by the law; with the alert sensitiveness of the public ear to political corruption, does any sane man think that a few officials can levy blackmail? Such an idea is almost laughable. And then mark you, what is there at present to guard the interests of the millions of consumers of foods and drugs against the cupidity of these rich blackmailers who now deceive the people and grow fat themselves from the proceeds of the sale of dishonest goods? Who is to stop this species of levy? The people are helpless. But it is easy enough to explain the sort of argu-

ment that holds up its hands in terror at the fear of blackmail on the part of the officials. The innocent do not fear investigation. All this hue and cry show that there is need of aggressive action. There will be business concerns ruined, but no manufacturer of honest goods will be injured. And any other than such a one deserves ruin.

The expense need not be great. There need not have to be an "army" of officials. The bill does not call for the constant examination of every product offered for sale. A few exposures of a certain line of fraudulent goods would serve to shut that line out. And as time went on there would be less and less of fraud and never any added expense.

Then there are those who are bold enough, or ignorant enough, to say that there is no demand for this sort of a measure. Well, the National Grange not only demands it but is working unceasingly for its passage. The National Dairy Association, the National Association of Druggists, the National Grocers' Association, have all appealed for its passage. Besides that thousands of petitions have been sent in advocating it. Thousands of farmers and other citizens who have said nothing as yet, are in favor of the bill. There are three classes of people that oppose it: Partisans who dare not incur the enmity of money and who fear to make an error of policy; dishonest manufacturers of the articles included in the provisions of the bill; and newspapers who either fear the loss of political prestige or of advertising patronage. The people favor it. Which is to win?

CONGRESS.

The House passed the bill placing binding twine on the free list.

The House passed a bill providing for pensions to survivors of the Indian wars, the rate to be eight dollars per month.

Senator Vest created a little excitement by charging that there was lavish and unnecessary expenditure in connection with the disbursements of the World's Fair appropriations.

The House and Senate conferrees on the Chinese exclusion bill presented a report which was finally adopted by both houses, though, strongly opposed in the Senate, notably by Senator Sherman. The bill as amended, was passed and signed by the President. It renews the old law for ten years with additional provisions requiring Chinamen properly belonging in this country under the law, to provide themselves with certificates stating the fact. They must be able to produce these at any time. Also there shall be no bail allowed to a Chinaman denied the privilege of landing, who applies for a writ of habeas corpus, but the matter shall at once be settled.

In the Senate Mr. Call submitted the following resolutions, which were ordered to lie on the table and be printed:

Resolved by the Senate of the United States of America, That a special committee of nine Senators shall be appointed, who are hereby instructed to consider and report to the Senate some legislation that will relieve the scarcity of money amongst the farmers in all parts of the country, reduce the rate of interest, and enable them to obtain loans of money on the security of their lands and crops.

2. That they shall enquire and report whether it is not practicable to establish some agency, depository, subtreasury, or banking system, which with and by the aid of the Government, co-operating with the citizens, money shall be kept in every community within the reasonable and proper need of the people, at low rates of interest, to be fixed and regulated by the people of the several communities under the supervision of the Government.

3. To consider and report to the Senate whether it is not practicable to devise some system by which the perpetual flow of money from all parts of the country to the centers of commerce and business shall be limited and restrained so far as shall be necessary to enable a sufficient supply of money for the need of the people in all sections of the country to be kept in their different and respective communities.

SMALL THINGS.

Too many otherwise very worthy people, have a contempt for anything small, forgetting the old rhyme of "little drops of water, little grains of sand," etc. All vices grow if neglected, and the vice of carelessness is no exception. The child who throws a handful of corn, or apple-pearings into the stove, because it is easier than to go to the floor and throw them to the chickens, will waste bushels in after years with no twinge of conscience. He may not throw the bushels in the stove but the apples will be allowed to rot, and thus be wasted, besides poisoning the air; and the corn will be left in the field, an ear here, another there, where neither the chickens nor the fowls of the air are benefited by them.

There may be ten or twenty square feet of grain in a corner that the binder does not reach, so it is left; it is not much so why make a fuss about it? But there are four corners in the field, (unless it's circular, and that form isn't common) and several trees, besides a stone-pile or two, and there are several fields. How much is left? Have we not the best authority for saying "gather up the fragments that nothing be lost." The grain wasted may only represent the fraction of a dollar, but how many men would leave the halves, quarters, dimes, or even the cents lying in the field if they dropped a handful of mixed coins. A man who dropped a penny and neglected to take the trouble to pick it up would be deemed careless or extravagant by men who throw away many dollars every year by carelessness just as bad.

In no place is the waste so great as on the farm; in the factory the machinery and tools are all under cover and are not needed eighty or a hundred rods away one day and as far in another direction the next. It is much easier to lay a wrench or hammer down on a stone or in a fence corner after using it and forget all about it, than it is to take care of it. The only difference is that the manufacturer sells another wrench or hammer and the farmer pays for it. The lost tool may be discovered a year or two later, but the woodwork has rotted and the iron rusted so that the whole is worthless.

The careless man leaves his wood-beam plow in the fence corner, where it stands all the fall or all winter. What of it? O! nothing only when he uses it again it takes some time to get the rust off, pulls hard, and needs to be scoured off with a stone frequently, then the point catches a root and the beam, that has rotted where the bolt goes through, breaks and the farmer spends half a day going after a new one, and has to pay for that or get "trusted." The plow could have been put under shelter in ten minutes; the woodwork painted and the iron oiled at an expense of ten cents. Instead we have a man and team one-half day, \$1.00; new beam, 75c; total, \$1.75. To this one might well add as much more charged to self-respect.

Plows are not the only tools treated in this way. Wagons and buggies are left out in the rain and sun because it's too much trouble to put them under shelter. Rakes, tedders, harrows, forks, hoes and a hundred other things are neglected in the same way. Painting is neglected until the wood rots and has to be replaced at a cost ten times greater than the paint that would have kept them sound.

We all know people who are always poor, always "shiftless," and who waste enough every year to give themselves many of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. It's easier to waste than to save, but far less profitable, and by no means as enjoyable. Many poor men have wasted a fortune and still wonder why Providence forever frowns upon their efforts to succeed. People who don't want to shoulder the responsibility of their own shortcomings try to shuffle them off on Providence, but it don't work. When the Lord made the Garden of Eden, he did not leave it to go to seed, but put man in it to dress and keep it in order. "Order is Heaven's first law," and most people would be happier and more prosperous if they had a little more of that sort of heaven on earth.

It is the attention to, or disre-

gard of these little things that makes the difference between success and failure. It is the small leaks that sink the ship because they are neglected. The large leaks are at once noticed and stopped. Small vices are not noticed and they ruin the character, and spread their baleful influence around, while the greater crimes are noticed and shunned. The pounds are looked after, but the pence are forgotten; pence make pounds, therefore look well to the pence and the pounds will rapidly multiply.

Eaton Rapids.

A. L.

GOOD ADVICE.

(Read before Olive Grange after the officers were installed.)

I wish to say a few words to the officers of this Grange, especially the younger ones, and to the members later on.

You are all aware that tonight, you have taken a solemn vow to fulfil the various duties in each of your offices.

Your companions in this order have by the ballot placed you in important positions. It is your duty to do all that is required of you in such a manner that they will feel that their confidence was not misplaced.

Remember that the eyes of the whole Grange are upon you, and not only this Grange, but the whole world is watching to see what progress is being made. Whether this Grange they hear so much about is really doing good or is only a myth. As a sister, and one, too, that has great interest in your success, I will say, be faithful to the trust your companions have placed in you. Be faithful in all things. Be hopeful that good may result from each and every meeting. Be charitable with all. If you see anything amiss, if a brother or sister step a little to one side of the straight and narrow path, don't be the first to condemn. Reach out a helping hand and try to draw them back in the shelter of the order. Be charitable to all, whether in or out of the Order.

Another suggestion. Be punctual in your attendance, and when the gavel falls let each repair to his or her allotted station, there to remain during the session. Live close to the rules laid down in the rituals. If each one of you would commit to memory your part of the initiation so as to dispense with the book entirely it would be much nicer, and would impress the meaning upon the candidates much more than if read. You are the leaders in this Grange for this year. May each one of you conduct yourself in such a manner that the Grange will be better for your having governed it.

Now a word to the members as well as officers. Do not content yourself with the thought that you have elected your officers and now you'll stay at home and let them run the affair and see how they will come out at the end of the year. You have placed several young members in important positions. They need your counsel and encouragement. If you see them making mistakes (and who of us is perfect?) be patient with them, kindly point out the error and you will receive their gratitude. Bear ye with one another. Remember the old saying: A house divided against itself must fall. So it is with the Grange. It can not stand and have some pulling one way, others pulling another way. But by all working together in unison good results must follow. You can not expect as much wisdom from these young members as you would from others that have been here years or perhaps were charter members. But I am sure they are willing and anxious to learn to do right and will willingly take advice if given in the right spirit. There are in this Grange as well as all others, several young people, and upon them we must soon depend for the success or failure of our Order. The older ones are fast passing off the stage of action, soon the place that now knows them will know them no more. So remember this is no child's play. We can have good times at our homes or "lots of fun" as some would say at a social gathering, but when we come to the Grange remember we come to stand up for the rights and principles of a grand organization. I heard several of our smartest mem-

bers of the State Grange call it the grandest organization on the globe. J. J. Woodman is one of the number and none will deny but what he knows what he is talking about.

I am sure you have plenty of the right kind of timber in your Grange. Now all that is necessary is to put your shoulder to the wheel and push in the right direction and success is sure to follow.

I heard a member of a Grange not very far away, a short time since, say that the Grange did very well for an entertainment or to spark the girls, smoke and chew tobacco.

My reply was: Every Grange is just what its members make it. Am I not right?

If we go to the Grange with the determination to have a profitable and interesting meeting we have it. If we go simply for the sake of going somewhere and having a funny time we have that also.

But, brothers and sisters, there is something of far more consequence than pleasure all the time. The stern realities of life will soon be upon you. You cannot always live the life of a butterfly. It might be pleasant if we could, but it does not fall to the lot of very many. Each one has a duty to perform.

Our legislative halls, Senate chambers, and other positions of trust must be filled. Perhaps some of you that are in the sound of my voice may at some future time be called upon to occupy those positions, and where could you find a better school for inculcating parliamentary rules and business regulations than in Olive Grange hall? It is well to bring questions for discussion in the Grange concerning government affairs. Listen, and even take part in them yourself. I would not have all the time taken up with discussions, but have a part of the evening devoted to essays, recitations, selections, music, etc., mixed in. I know many say: "Oh! these discussions are so dry, I cannot endure them."

Please remember the day is not far distant when you will have to listen to them and take part in them too, for the present occupants will soon be gone to that home from whence no traveler returns, and upon you it will fall to occupy their positions and follow in their footsteps.

A few more words and I am done. When one of your number is reading or speaking in the Grange, do not act as if you were unaware of the fact. There is nothing more embarrassing than to read or speak in public and feel that your efforts are not appreciated. When conferring degrees, let it be done earnestly, sincerely and with due solemnity. When we stop and consider what the degrees mean, we certainly can not call them silly. At first death and the grave are impressed upon our minds and at the last there comes before our vision pictures of another and a better world, where everlasting spring abides and never fading flowers.

In entering or leaving the Grange during the session, please do not forget to salute the Overseer. I have seen many enter the Grange and take their seats as unconcerned as if no Overseer was there. Others would step up and go through with the salutation in a hasty manner and would be seated before the Overseer could return the salute. Now this is all wrong.

Although no word is spoken every salutation has a sacred meaning and should be heeded.

Now, hoping that you will all place faith in the supreme being who doeth all things well, nurture hope that when we are called from our labor on earth, we may all meet in the Great Grange above. Have charity for all mankind. Guard all with fidelity.

That through your instrumentality this Grange may become the banner Grange of Clinton county, with one exception, is the earnest wish of

MRS. C. L. PEARCE,
Overseer of DeWitt Grange, Clinton Co.

A PANACEA FOR ALL ILLS.

There is no cure-all for both body and mind so effective as open air exercise. Physicians and all works on hygiene recommend it for all diseases, and especially for the maintenance of good general health. There are none of us in this day and age who have not studied, read,

or looked into some work on health, and we ought to know from experience that exercise in the open air is conducive to health.

After a long winter of indoor work, living in over-heated rooms through the day and sleeping in warm ones at night, or, perhaps in badly ventilated ones, we hail the warm days of spring with gladness and throw open wide the doors and windows to let in the fresh invigorating breezes. But this should not be enough, we ought to get out into the breeze, away from the dust of the rooms and the rising bacteria of the cellar. Those too weak to work should ride or walk, increasing the distance as strength is gained, and for those who are not sick, only "ailing," a world of work awaits you.

Never mind if the papers on the shelves are not just so clean, if there is not enough pie for the usual generous pieces, if there is dust on the parlor table; see that the dust is wiped up under the bed and you are ready for the panacea.

Pride has nothing to do with out-door work, it must be swallowed. If that cannot be done, the sun bonnet can be drawn down and tied tight, and if anybody goes by she'll never know who was inside that bonnet.

There any many things a woman can do in the yard and garden if she is only so disposed.

Raking up the leaves and rubbish is usually the first thing to be done, but that is hard work, and should be done moderately. Almost all women have flower beds of some kind, but they seldom think of going into the garden to work. If it is genteel to work in a flower bed, why not in a vegetable bed? The seeds sown in the latter will bloom and have just as handsome blossoms as those in the former, only they must be left to mature their seed for our future benefit on the dining table instead of being cut for the center table.

Don't leave the management of the fruit in the garden to the other side of the house, especially if he "hates to bother with it." A woman can take care of all the fruit needed for family use, and do it much better than a man; simply because he will not take the time to make it a success. Set out some strawberries, that is easy work. Prune the raspberries (don't call them raspberries), it's not necessary to tie them to stakes, just cut out the old canes and cut back the new ones to two feet tall and they will take care of themselves. Cut, hoe, or dig away the grass from the currants, and cut off all the useless twigs you can find. The grape vines can be made to bear if some of the old wood is cut away, and about six or seven good canes tied up. If there is a plum tree in the garden that has always blossomed but never borne fruit, jar it every morning early, as soon as the little plums set and until they are half grown, spreading an old sheet on the ground to catch the little gray curculio that looks like a bit of dirt that has fallen. And while you are doing all these things, don't do them mechanically like a machine, but observe how they grow. Can you tell a plum branch of blossoms from a cherry branch? How are the buds on a grape cane arranged? Which forces the buds first, the old or young wood? Which comes out first on a currant stalk, the leaves or the blossoms? It's not what we read in books but intelligent observation that makes us learned.

Again, in doing these things don't try to do too much at a time; never work until you are tired out; be satisfied with a bit well done, and you will go into the house feeling as though you could do mountains of work. You have been invigorated; your "ailing" has left you; you feel better in body and mind, and you can truthfully say, that out-door exercise is a panacea for all ills.

E. R. S.

Paw Paw, Mich.

THE FARMER'S VEGETABLE GARDEN.

H. P. G.

If you have not a small space given to rhubarb in your garden see to it now that a start is made. Rhubarb roots can be purchased of the seedmen, but it is probable that some of your neighbors, who are more fortunate than you in having a bed started, would not object

to your digging a few roots to make a beginning. A dozen roots planted in good soil, four feet apart would be sufficient for a large sized family.

It is now time to set out early cabbage plants. If you did not sow the seed in boxes during March and keep them in a warm room, or better still, in a small hot-bed out doors, you must buy your plants of your neighbors or at the stores. Fifty plants each of Jersey Wakefield and Henderson's Summer will be sufficient for early cabbages. For late cabbages you may sow the seed soon in some rich spot protected from the hens. When the plants are up thin to about two inches apart. The plants should be ready for transplanting in July. For late varieties, Premium Flat Dutch, Late Drumhead and Stone Mason may be mentioned.

Cauliflowers are seldom seen in a farmers garden. The requirements of cauliflowers are similar to those of early cabbages. If once grown they will be sure of a space in the garden the next year.

Lettuce is a crop that will stand some freezing without much injury, therefore the seed may be sown early in the spring. It is perhaps best to sow the seed in a well prepared spot and when the plants are of sufficient size to transplant them to the garden. If you wish to cultivate with a horse, plant in rows 3 or 3½ feet apart. Set the plants 12 to 15 inches apart in the rows. Lettuce plants will grow to a large size if you give them a chance. Sow the seed at different times during the season for a succession. Prize Head, Grand Rapids, Tennis Ball and Black seeded Simpson are good varieties.

It is well to have some straw handy to cover the asparagus bed when a frost is expected.

Have you a
Syster

or a

Cuzzin

or an

Ant

who lives in

Maine

or somewhere in the East;

or in

Texas

or somewhere in the South;

or in

California

or somewhere on the Pacific Coast?

Well

if you have, don't you want

to send one of them

**The
Grange
Visitor**

until Jan. 1, 1893 for

25 cents?

Read the article on page 4 entitled

Another Call

and then send us their name and address, inclosing a postal note for 25c to our address.

Ladies' Department.

WALT WHITMAN.

We present a few extracts from the poems of Walt Whitman, showing his peculiarities as well as his talent. A sketch of his life follows, together with the opinions of the press and the critics. We trust this collection will not fail to interest our readers who are inclined to study our American literature and literary men.

From "LEAVES OF GRASS."

A child said "What is the grass?" fetching it to me with full hands. How could I answer the child? I do not know what it is any more than he. I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven. Or I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord, A scented gift and remembrance designedly dropt, Bearing the owner's name someway in the corners, that we may see and remark, and say whose? Or I guess the grass is itself a child, the produced babe of the vegetation. Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic, And it means, Sprouting alike in broad zones and narrow zones, Growing among black folks as among white, Kanuck, Tuckahoe, Congressmen, Cuff, I give them the same. I receive them the same. And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves. Tenderly will I use you curling grass, It may be you transpire from the breasts of young men, It may be I had known them I would have loved them. It may be you are from old people, or from the offspring taken soon out of their mothers' laps. This grass is very dark to be from the white heads of old mothers, Darker than the colorless beards of old men, Dark to come from under the faint red roofs of months. O! I perceive after all so many uttering tongues, And I perceive they do not come from the roofs of mouths for nothing. I wish I could translate the hints about the dead young men and women, And the hints about old men and mothers, and the offspring taken soon out of their laps. What do you think has become of the young and old men? And what do you think has become of the women and children? They are alive and well somewhere, The smallest sprout shows that there is really no death, And if ever there was, it led forward life, and does not wait at the end to arrest it, And cease'd the moment life appear'd. All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses, And to die is different from what anyone supposed, and luckier. * * * * *

I HEAR AMERICA SINGING.

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear, Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be, blithe and strong, The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam, The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work, The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deck hand singing on the steamboat deck, The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands, The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown, The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing, Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else, The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly, Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

BEHOLD, A WOMAN!

The old face of the mother of many children, Whist! I am fully content, Lull'd and late is the smoke of the First day morning, It hangs low over the rows of trees by the fences, It hangs thin by the sassafras and wild-cherry and cat-brier under them. I saw the rich ladies in full dress at the soiree, I heard what the singers were singing so long, Heard who sprang in crimson youth from the white froth and the water blue. Behold a woman! She looks out from her Quaker cap, her face clearer and more beautiful than the sky. She sits in an arm chair under the shaded porch of the farm house, The sun just shines on her old white head, Her ample garment is of creamed-hued linen, Her grandson raised the flax, and her grand daughter spun it with the distaff and the wheel, The melodious character of the earth, The finish beyond which philosophy can not go and does not wish to go, The justified mother of men.

WHISPERS OF HEAVENLY DEATH.

Whispers of heavenly death murmur'd I hear, Labial gossip of night, sibilant chorals, Footsteps gently ascending, mystical breezes wafted soft and low, Ripples of unseen rivers, tides of a current flowing, forever flowing, (Or is it the plashing of tears? The measureless waters of human tears?) I see, just see skyward, great cloud masses, Mournfully, slowly they roll, silently swelling and mixing, With at times half dimm'd sadden'd far-off star Appearing and disappearing.

JOY, SHIPMATE, JOY!

Joy, shipmate, joy! (Pleas'd to my soul at death I cry.) Our life is closed, our life begins, The long, long anchorage we leave, The ship is clear at last, she leaps! She swiftly courses from the shore, Joy, shipmate, joy.

INVOCATION TO DEATH.

From the walls of the powerful fortress'd house, From the clasp of the knitted locks, from the keep of the well closed doors Let me be wafted, Let me glide noiselessly forth, With the key of softness unlock the locks with a whisper, Set open the doors, O soul, Tenderly—be not impatient (Strong is your hold O mortal flesh, Strong is your hold, O love).

DEATH'S VALLEY.

[Whitman's last poem, in Harper's Magazine, for April.] Nay, do not dream, designer dark, Thou hast portray'd or hit thy theme entire; I, however of late by this dark valley, by its confines, having glimpses of it, Here enter lists with thee, claiming my right to make a symbol too. For I have seen many wounded soldiers die, After dread sufferings—have seen their lives pass off with smiles; And I have watched the death-hours of the old; and seen the infant die; The rich, with all his nurses and his doctors, And then the poor, in meagreness and poverty; And I myself for long, O Death, have breathed my every breath Amid the numbness and the silent thought of thee.

THE POET'S LIFE.

Walt Whitman was born in West Mills, Long Island, N. Y., May 31, 1819, and was educated in the public schools of Brooklyn and New York city, and in the printing office. He worked at the printers' trade for some years in the summer, while teaching in the winter. Subsequently, he learned the carpenters' trade and for brief periods edited newspapers in New Orleans and Huntington, L. I. In 1847-8, he made long tours on foot throughout the United States, following the courses of the northwestern rivers, also including Canada in his wanderings. In the war, Whitman's brother was wounded in battle, and the poet at once joined him in camp where he afterwards remained throughout the struggle as a volunteer nurse, his experience during that period being graphically described in "Drum-Taps," and "Memoranda During the War." His fatigue and night-watching during 1864 brought on an illness, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. From 1865 to 1874 he held a government clerkship in Washington, being compelled to retire in the latter part of that year on account of a paralytic stroke. He spent his last years in revising his works. He never married, and it is said that one reason why he never had been more popular is because he never tried to please women, the most fastidious of literary critics.

The New York Independent had this to say editorially concerning the dead poet:

The designation of Walt Whitman as "the good, gray poet," fails of the complete and supreme infelicity of the famous definition of the crab, in that time had made him at least gray. He wrote the noisiest, noisomest stuff ever called poetry, in lines beginning with a capital letter, and whose elusive dactylic suggestion had a habit of dribbling out into utter prose.

The characteristic of Walt Whitman's style is the big and the braggart. His poems are the long-winded replication of Emerson's egotistic pantheism:

"I am owner of the spheres, Of the seven stars and the solar year, Of Cesar's hand and Plato's brain, Of Lord Christ's heart and Shakespeare's strain."

So Whitman claimed to be everything and filled up page after page with the weary list of the particular things he was, apparently everything he could think of. The powers of Nature and especially of generation he cataloged in the coarsest way, the brutal novelty of which was declared to be poetry by some astonished admirers, although Emerson was greatly annoyed at being represented as one of the worshippers of the rude-stepping bacchanal.

The form of Walt Whitman's verse was as bad as it could well be. After Longfellow's "Evangeline" had tuned the public ear to dactyls, and Tupper had diluted them into catching prosaic rhythms, Whitman adopted the last and weakest fad of metrically structureless verse. Then his diction was strained and repulsive, and modesty was a forgotten virtue and a fallacy.

When the war came he ceased to celebrate indecency, and devoted himself rather to glorifying the greatness of a country which has such big rivers, lakes and other geographical monsters. Though his verse improved, and he wrote some fair short poems in rhyme and meter, his reputation gradually fell, as it deserved; for it was impossible that the pure taste of a decent people could long endure the foul, or find perennial enjoyment in a loud auctioneer's catalog of members, regions and activities. He outlived his fame, and will never recover his reputation; because he had in him no music, no imagination, no delicacy of sentiment, and was but the voice of one bawling in the wilderness, with nothing to say to the listener.

Are we told to speak nothing but good of the dead? What good can we say? He is past any pain from

our words. He has added no strength to our literature, only a name of oddity and crankiness to its list of writers who have achieved notice and mention.

The Mid-Continent replies to this as follows:

Walt Whitman was a man with an opinion of his own, and had the courage of his convictions, as was evidenced by his "Leaves o' Grass," in which he treated moral, social and political problems with a boldness that shocked hypercritical society, and for this it claimed that he was indecent, but to the contrary his life was a model of morality, but he had eyes to see, and he spoke of things as he saw them and knew them to exist, regardless of public opinion. He foresaw the opposition and abuse that the book would meet with, and spoke of it as a sortie on common literary use and wont, in spirit and in form, adding that a century might elapse before his triumph or failure would be assured. But in this he was mistaken, for already do we rejoice in its triumph, Ralph Waldo Emerson having said, "I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. * * * I find incomparable things incomparably said." Whitman has been compared in England, where the literary standard is higher than ours, with the leading classic writers of the world. Whitman wrote with an exuberance of thought that would supply the mental outfit of ten ordinary poets, and with a rush of words, not reckless but grandly labored, he hurls his views of the world at his readers with a vigor and boldness that takes their breaths away. He was fervid and scornful in his expressions of the miserable hypocrites that fetter but also protect the evilly disposed, but the idea he had at heart was universal love which leaves no room for wickedness, because it leaves no room for doing or saying unkind, uncharitable and unjust things to his fellow man.

The Christian Union speaks thus:

Over most of Whitman's later works the thought of death has hovered, not as a shadow, but as a prophecy of larger gains and greater range than this life gives at its best. In the solemnity and hush of these nobler meditations of his age the earlier and cruder, and at times repellent, voices of his youth are forgotten. It is time to judge him fairly, dispassionately, generously. He has had both extravagant laudation and uncomprehending condemnation; there are qualities and elements in his work which justify both the claims of his friends and the criticisms of those who saw in him idiosyncrasy rather than genius.

Whitman was, from any point of view, a striking personality; his figure, face, and gait made him everywhere a marked man. He was also a fortunate man. He had the opportunities he needed; he touched life on its universal sides intimately; he had and nobly used chances of great service to his fellows; he made warm and powerful friends; his very disregard of form fastened attention upon him. Rejected and derided by many, he found enthusiastic acceptance at the hands of some of the most original men in this country and England; he became to many the forerunner of a new order of literature, the prophet of a new order of society. It was his good fortune to captivate or to antagonize; it seemed impossible to be indifferent to him. He was too positive, too virile, both in his qualities and his defects, to permit of that indifference which is the silence that follows mediocrity.

To understand Whitman at all one must not only approach him with an open mind, but with the patience that endures and suffers. Such an approach will be rewarded by the discovery of a man of extraordinary interest and a work of very uncommon force. Whitman was a fundamental man, who recognized and honored the primitive instincts. His creed was of the simplest; he accepted the world, man, and life as essentially divine in every part, quality, and manifestation; he believed in the common man as being fundamentally uncommon; in democracy as the inevitable and ultimate order of society; in fellowship and brotherhood as the true working relation;

in an ultimate spiritual purpose as being wrought out through all things. He felt the unity and community of humanity perhaps more deeply and fundamentally than any other poet in history, and he made himself, in that sense, what Professor Dowden has called him, the poet of democracy. He recognized no selective principle in art or society; he cared for all men alike, and he counted all occupations and conditions as on a par. This conception gave his view of America a certain impressiveness and grandeur which no open-minded reader can fail to recognize; it is not a new thought, but it is certainly new in the compass which he gave it. The town-meeting democracy of the New England poets fades out of view in such a vista as Whitman opened, and in this wide grasp of the significance of democracy he was not only alone, but prophetic. It was the spirit and universal form of democracy which inspired Whitman; with persons and types, with the single exception of Lincoln, he does not deal; and it is this breadth of view realized through the imagination that gives his poetry its distinctive and original quality. His imagination was great, so great that, compared with most contemporary American verse-makers, he is as the mystery and vastness of the forest to the birds which break its silence with their solitary notes.

Robert G. Ingersoll paid this tribute to his dead friend. It should be read for its beauty of expression, if nothing more:

"Again we in the mystery of life are brought face to face with the mystery of death. A great man, a great American—the most eminent citizen of this republic—is dead before us. And we have met to pay tribute to his greatness and to his worth. I know that he needs no words of mine. His name is secure. He laid the foundations of it deep in the human heart. He was, above all that I have known, the poet of humanity, of sympathy. Great—he was so great that he rose above the greatest that he met without arrogance; and so great that he stooped to the lowest without conscious condescension. He never claimed to be lower or greater than any of the sons of men. He came into our generation a free, untrammelled spirit with sympathy for all. His arm was beneath the form of the sick. He sympathized with the imprisoned and the despoised; and even on the brow of crime he was great enough to place the kiss of human sympathy. One of the greatest lines in our literature is his, speaking of an outcast, and the line is great enough to do honor to the greatest genius that has ever lived. He said: "Not until the sun excludes you will I exclude you." A charity as wide as the sky. And wherever there was human suffering, human misfortune, the sympathy of Whitman bent above it as the firmament bends above this earth. He was built on a broad and splendid plan—ample, without appearing to have the limitations—dressing easily for a brother of mountains and seas and constellations—caring nothing for the little maps and charts that timid pilots hug the shore with, and giving himself freely with the recklessness of genius to winds and waves and tides—caring for nothing so long as the stars were above him. And he walked among men, among writers, among verbal varnishers and veneers, among literary milliners and tailors, with the unconscious dignity of an antique god. He was the poet, also, of that divine democracy that gives equal rights to all the sons and daughters of men. He uttered the great American voice, uttered a song worthy of the great republic. He has uttered more supreme words than any writer of our century, and possibly of almost any other. He was above all things a man. And above genius, above all the snow-capped peaks of intelligence, above all of art, rises the true man—greater than all. He was a true man; and he walked among his fellow men as such. He absorbed all theories, all creeds, all religions, and believed in none. He had a philosophy and a religion of his own, broader, as he believed—and as I believe—than others. He accepted all. He absorbed all. And he was above all. He was true, absolutely to himself. He had

frankness, courage. And he was candid as light. He was willing that all the sons of men should be absolutely acquainted with his heart and brain. He was not afraid to live; not afraid to speak his thought. Neither was he afraid to die. For many years he and death lived near neighbors. He was always willing and ready to meet and greet this thing called death. And for many months he sat in the deepening twilight waiting for the night—waiting for the light. In his brain were the blessed memories of the day; and in his heart were mingled the dawn and dusk of life. He was not afraid—cheerful every moment, the laughing nymphs of day did not desert him. They remained that they might clasp the hand of the veiled and silent sisters of the night when they should come. And when they did come, Walt Whitman stretched his hands to both—on one side the nymphs of day; and on the other, the silent sisters of the night. And so, hand in hand, between smiles and tears, he reached his journey's end. From the frontier of life, from the western-wave-kissed shore, he sent us messages of content and hope. And those messages seem now like strains of music blown by the mystic trumpeter from death's pale realm. Today we give back to mother nature, to her clasp and kiss, one of the bravest, sweetest souls that ever lived in human clay. And I thank him for the brave words he has said on the subject of death. Since he has lived death is less fearful than he was before, and thousands and millions will walk down into the dark valley of the shadow, holding Walt Whitman by the hand, long after we are dead. The brave words he has spoken will sound like trumpets to the dying. And so I lay this poor wreath upon this great man's tomb. I loved him living and I love him still."

Mr. Edmund C. Stedman sent, with the funeral flowers, the following lines to Walt Whitman:

"Good-by, Walt, Good-by from all your loved of earth— Rock, tree, dumb creature, man and woman— To you their comrade human. "The last assault Ends now; and now in some great world has birth A minstrel whose strong soul finds border wings, More brave imaginings. "Stars crown the hilltop where your dust shall lie Even as we say good-by, Good-by, old Walt."

THE DIGNITY OF A TRUE MANHOOD.

High aspirations and noble purposes are only the result of pure living. A degraded manhood and a perverted life will surely follow unrestrained passions. Achievements that ennoble life and make it possible to rise above the common level of human existence are only secured through the domination of the passions to a will that has become electrified with virtuous emotions and strong convictions of duty, and these will make the loss of everything material a secondary consideration—From "Editorial Flashes," in Demorest's Family Magazine for June.

FOOD ADULTERATION.

Chemical Bulletin No. 32, just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will be of interest to every Patron. It is compiled by our faithful laborer Alex. J. Wedderburn, and shows vividly the need of some national legislation concerning the adulteration of foods and drugs.

May Offer No. 1 The Grange Visitor From now until Jan. 1, 1893 For 25 Cts See Offer No. 2

"THE BUYERS' GUIDE."

Nearly a million households use it as a reference book.

A million purchasers learning how to make four dollars do the work of five.

Sent only upon receipt of 15 cents in stamps to pay the postage. (550 pages, 30,000 quotations, weight two pounds.)

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Special Deputies. A. Luther, Barry County. E. W. Allis, Lenawee County.

Committee on Woman's Work in the Grange. Mrs. Mary A. Mayo, Battle Creek.

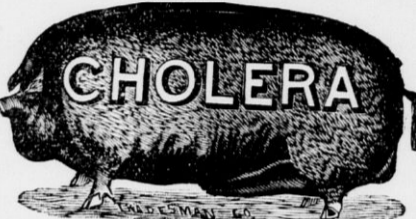
Revised List of Grange Supplies. Kept in the office of Sec'y of the Michigan State Grange.

Table listing various grange supplies and their prices, including porcelain ballot marbles, Secretary's record, Treasurer's orders, etc.

GERMAN HORSE AND COW POWDER

Is of the highest value to horses, cattle, hogs, and poultry. It assists digestion and assimilation and thus converts food into muscle, milk and fat.

STEKETEE'S



CHOLERA HOG CHOLERA CURE

Greatest Discovery Known for the cure of HOG CHOLERA, and PIN WORMS IN HORSES.

HUNDREDS OF THEM. Mr. G. C. Stekete:—Your Hog Cholera Cure, of which I fed two boxes to a yearling colt, brought hundreds of pin worms and smaller red ones from her.

Never was known to fail; the only sure remedy for worms in Hogs, Horses, Sheep, Dogs or Poultry. Every package warranted if used as per directions.

Cured His Colts and Sheep. Melette, S. D., Nov. 6, 1891. Mr. Stekete:—I send you \$1.50 for which send me three packages of your Hog Cholera Cure.

CHICAGO and West Michigan R'y

Table showing train schedules for Chicago and West Michigan R'y, including routes to Hartford, Holland, Grand Haven, etc.

GRAND RAPIDS and Indiana Railroad

Table showing train schedules for Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, including routes to Cincinnati, Fort Wayne, etc.

GOING SOUTH

Table showing train schedules for going south, including routes to Mackinaw City, Petoskey, etc.

College and Station.

SUGAR BEETS.

Dr. Kedzie answers a question relative to the food value of sugar beets grown on mucky soils as follows:

"The feeding value of sugar beets does not depend entirely upon the amount of sugar they contain. The food value will depend upon the amount of the albuminous materials in the beets and upon the amount of starch and gum in addition to the sugar.

CUT WORM PREVENTIVES.

With the reappearance of the cut worm comes the thought of preventives and remedies. Many remedies are recommended; only a few are commendable. To protect small plants in the garden, especially tomatoes and cabbages after transplanting, there is nothing safer to recommend than encasing individual plants in a small pasteboard box from which the top and bottom have been removed, or a tin can fixed in the same way.

Where people have small flower beds on the lawn, they are often troubled to protect such beds from cut worms that come from the surrounding sod. In such cases kerosene emulsion, properly diluted, may prove a satisfactory treatment.

The cut worm in the field is a treacherous foe. In the corn field its destructive work may often be anticipated by the numbers present when fitting the ground and the cut worms poisoned before the corn appears.

While on institute work last winter, the cut worm question was one never to be passed without discussion. Although I presume I could count the remedies by the hundred that were suggested, one seemed to be a great favorite among all farmers who had tried it.

POTATOES.

The following is from Bulletin 85, by Professor Taft. We intended to give an abstract last week but it was overlooked:

The Best Varieties to Plant. As an extra early sort, Howe's Premium* has again shown itself one of the best. Although only fairly productive, it is of excellent quality, and for home use well worth planting.

of blight, were ripe on August 8, and produced, the former 237.5 bushels, and the latter 336.8 bushels. They seemed to be nearly as early as Premium, and were much more productive. Of other early sorts the more promising were New Queen** 288 bushels, Tonhocks, 263.7 bushels, Signal, 261.2 bushels, Early Minnesota, 240 bushels, Early White Beauty of Hebron, 220 bushels, Beauty of Hebron* 206 bushels, Early Oxford** 213 bushels.

The above lists were made out from the behavior of the varieties the past season, but it so happens that of the varieties which were also grown in 1890, every one was on the selected list for that year (with the exception of West's No. 3, which is too coarse to be valuable), and quite a number which have been grown for three or four years were highly commended in 1888 and 1889.

Summary.

- 1. The seed end is as good, if not better, than any other part of the potato for planting, and as a rule produces fewer small tubers. 2. As a rule, medium-sized potatoes cut into halves lengthwise, using at the rate of 13 to 15 bushels of seed to acre, will produce best net results, planted one and a half or two feet apart.

PLANTING THE ROADSIDES.

For shade trees along the roadside, or in the front yard, in country or city, among our deciduous-leaved trees, the sugar maple (including black maple) is a general favorite and the one most extensively planted. It is a fashionable tree, producing a dense, clean top, much the shape of a well-built hay stack.

Among evergreens, for general planting, the white pine, arbutus, hemlock, red cedar and Norway pine, can scarcely be equaled by any species in temperate climates. Well-grown hemlocks have been considered by competent judges to be the finest evergreens in cultivation, while, in many respects, the white pine cannot be excelled.

our own region there is scarcely any risk.

Doubtless the time will come, when the officers of at least some of our rural highways will learn that it is next to vandalism to remove the last vestige of every shrub or small tree along the roadside. They often leave a tree here and there, but these are frequently damaged by the trimming. Groups or thickets of native shrubbery, including vines, untouched by ax or bush-hook, are a great source of delight to a well-trained person, as he views them while passing along the road.

Planting a Grove.

Without discussing at present the utility of planting trees for growing timber in Michigan, we can most heartily encourage every farmer who has the least inclination that way, to plant on some acre, more or less, one or many specimens of native trees and shrubs of as many kinds as he can secure.

A part of this acre, or even more, could be planted to chestnuts, hickory nuts, black walnuts, butternuts and hazel nuts.

CORN.

The following is an abstract of experiments with corn at the Purdue University Experiment Station, Lafayette, Indiana:

CONDITIONS AS TO SOIL, TREATMENT, ETC.

The soil of the station farm is a compact, dark colored, second bottom, containing a large portion of clay intimately mixed with vegetable matter, and underlaid with coarse gravel. Though highly retentive of capillary moisture, the perfect natural drainage, due to the underlying gravel, prevents an accumulation of free water in the soil.

The points aimed to determine were

- 1. Early or late planting. Early planting gave the best average for three years. 2. Thick or thin planting. The planting was done with a two horse drill planter, the rows three and two-thirds feet apart. The best results were obtained when the kernels were dropped twelve to fourteen inches apart. 3. Deep or shallow plowing. From plowing four, six, eight and ten inches the average was about the same for each depth, at twelve inches the yield was less. 4. Deep or shallow cultivation. The results showed in favor of rather shallow cultivation. 5. Yields from rotation and successive grain crops. The results show a gain of ten to fifteen per cent in favor of rotation. 6. Effect of full or partial applications of manure. By full applications is meant sufficient manure or fertilizer to supply all the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash required for a crop of seventy-five bushels of corn per acre; and partial, or two-thirds applications, mean enough of the above named

Notices of Meetings.

BRANCH COUNTY POMONA.

Branch county Pomona Grange will meet next with Union Grange at their hall on Thursday, May 19, 1892. The A. M. session will be devoted to the usual business of the Order, followed by a "Union" dinner, yet to be excelled, after which the public are most cordially invited to attend and listen to the following program: "Address of Welcome," Mrs. Leander Burnett, Union Grange. "Response," Mrs. A. L. Smith, Girard Grange. "Recitation," Miss Myra Ferguson, Coldwater Grange. "How to make Subordinate Grange meetings interesting," Miss Ida Fulks, Coldwater Grange. "Discussion," Miss Carrie G. Fisk, Coldwater Grange. "Recitation," Miss Belle Bennett, Union Grange. "Care and advantage of house and yard plants," Mrs. Ira Martin, of Batavia Grange. "Discussion," Mrs. E. A. Brown, Batavia Grange. "Declamation," Rodney George, Coldwater Grange. "How can we attain self-possession," Mrs. S. E. Lee, of Union Grange. "Discussion," by Rep. D. D. Buell, Union Grange. "What should be the coming farm fence," Mr. E. A. Greenmyer, Coldwater Grange; all join in the discussion. "Should the farmers of Branch county put much time or money in orchards and small fruits?" Mrs. W. E. Wright, of Coldwater Grange. Discussion by all present. The program will be interspersed with music furnished by Union Grange. Farmers, refrain from the never-completed farm tasks of plowing and sowing your fields and take a "half holiday" by sowing the mind with pleasant and useful ideas that may "yield an hundred fold!" If the day is unmarred by showers and "Horse Races," the meeting is bound to be one excelled by none and equaled by but few. H. E. STRAIGHT, Lecturer.

WESTERN POMONA.

Western Pomona Grange will meet with Ravenna Grange No. 373, at their hall in the village of Ravenna, Thursday and Friday May 26, and 27. The following papers will be presented: "What shall be done with our roads? Is not a radical change in our road laws a necessity?" By Robert Alward, Georgetown Grange. Paper—"The Model Wife," by Mrs. George Chubb, Lisbon Grange. "Why do so many boys leave the farm?" Mrs. Thomas Wilde, Ottawa Grange. The above will be followed by discussion, and the whole interspersed with music, recitations, etc. Mr. George Chubb, of Lisbon Grange will give one of his characteristic recitations Thursday evening. Let there be a full attendance and a profitable time. TOM F. ROGERS, Lecturer.

LENAWEE COUNTY POMONA.

Lenawee Co. Grange No. 15, will meet with Rome Grange June 2. There will be a business meeting of importance in the morning. A good program is being prepared for the afternoon. A good attendance is desired. MARY C. ALLIS, Secretary.

The statistician of the United States Department of Agriculture has prepared a report, which is now in press, on the wages of farm labor, the result of nine investigations from 1866 to 1892, with prior records of wages as far back as 1840. The report shows the monthly rates both with and without board for the season or year and also by the day in harvest time. It shows that for ten years wages have been very uniform and well sustained in spite of fluctuations in prices of farm products, and that a steady demand exists, with a positive scarcity of farm labor in a large portion of the country. Haughty lady (who has purchased a stamp)—"Must I put it on myself?" Stamp Clerk—"Not necessarily. It will probably accomplish more if you put it on the letter."—New York Herald.

The reports of big winnings by grain speculators are among our most popular cereal stories.—Washington Star.

TARIFF—PROHIBITION.

[Continued from Page 1.]

question, will surely be attained if their respective views prevail. Whichever side is right, then, in this tariff contest, and because right will win, for the right will certainly win in the end, and the policy adopted that will be best for the material interests of the country, there is no reason to fear that prohibition will longer be kept in the background. One of the many stories told of Mr. Lincoln seems to be pertinent to this question of party prohibition. A call was made for troops while the people of the northwest were still greatly excited over the Indian outbreak. Feeling, that under the circumstances no soldiers should be sent east, the governor of Minnesota telegraphed Mr. Lincoln that it was impossible to furnish the troops and asked what should be done. Immediately the reply came back: "If you can't, you can't. A. Lincoln." It matters not how prohibition may overshadow all others, the fact remains that as a party issue it cannot win while the tariff question is yet unsettled.

Lansing, Mich.

NEWS NOTES.

MICHIGAN.

Hon Edwin Willits is in Michigan. A large number of hotel men met in Detroit. A Lansing Improvement Association has been formed. Rapid transit in Detroit. Electric cars on Jefferson ave. Prof. Davenport is on his way to Michigan from Brazil. Butters & Peters' mills at Ludington burned. Loss \$250,000. There is to be a fine carriage road between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. \$457,000 is the amount of the primary school fund to be apportioned this month. Students' Republican League meets in Ann Arbor May 17.—McKinley, Thurston Alger, Burrows. It is stated that hundreds of Chinamen came across the St. Clair and Detroit rivers last week. Judge John C. Shields, ex-chief Justice of Arizona, and formerly of Lansing, died at Fowlerville. Dr. Nelson, president of the Kalamazoo college is dead. He initiated a new era of prosperity for the college. Rev. Mr. Jacob, of Muskegon, "the poor man's pastor" is dead. Impressive services were held in the Democratic wigwam. The Miner electoral law will be tested before the Supreme Court. The Republican leaders of the state are the movers. The Democratic State Convention at Muskegon elected as delegates at large and their alternates, Don M. Dickinson, S. O. Fisher, Edwin F. Uhl, and Edward Ryan, delegates; Thos. M. Crocker, S. L. Bignell, R. R. Blacker, and Henry Chamberlain, alternates. Judge J. G. Ramsdell had a remarkable escape from what might have proved a fatal accident. He was on horseback and had ridden up on the hill in his orchard to superintend his workmen. A stick in the hands of one of the workmen frightened his horse, which dashed down the steep incline of the hill, heading toward a small plum tree. As the animal neared it he swerved to one side and the judge shot off his back, landing in the top boughs and breaking the tree, which was three inches in diameter, in his fall. The tree undoubtedly saved the judge's life. He was much bruised but was able to be in court next day.

NATIONAL.

Cyclone in Oklahoma. There are rumors of a wall paper trust. Snowstorm in Wyoming. Stock in danger. Police seized red flags in Chicago, May day parade. Charles Emory Smith resigns as minister to Russia. World's Fair laborers were assaulted and mobbed by strikers. National Editorial Association meets in San Francisco, May 22. It is claimed that Harrison has 346 delegates pledged out of the 896. Louisiana confederate veterans demand pensions from the state. Edison has been granted telephone patents that were applied for ten years ago. It is said that Senator Stanford will resign and devote his time to his university. Patrick O'Sullivan, the Cronin suspect is dead. He protested his innocence to the last. The Wyoming Republicans have selected two ladies as alternate delegates to the national convention. Judge Montgomery resigned from the Supreme Bench of the District of Columbia, to practice in Michigan. The general conference of the Methodist church met at Omaha, Nebraska. Lay delegates were finally admitted to seats separate from the ministers. The ques-

tion of allowing dancing by Methodist church members was introduced.

Floods in Iowa, Kansas and Illinois are doing considerable damage. The Louisiana levees are in danger.

Prominent Chinamen held a secret conference in Philadelphia. It is thought that a general exodus is contemplated.

The gifts to the Yale University the past year amounted to \$375,860.37. The accessions to the library have been 8,730 volumes and 29,000 pamphlets.

The Alliance conference at Birmingham Ala. decided that the Alliance should be kept free from partisan entanglements and that its members could affiliate with any party.

FOREIGN.

General quiet prevailed in the European May day parades.

Baron de Fava, the Italian minister, is returning to the United States to resume his duties.

Mrs. Potter Palmer is visiting European countries in the interests of the woman's part of the World's Fair.

It is again reported that Russia is active in preparations for war. The troops are being moved toward the western frontiers.

Some American physicians, after forming a Keeley institute at Copenhagen, have gone to Berlin to try to introduce the gold cure.

The American legation in Berlin is flooded with inquiries regarding the estate of Baron Fisher, who is said to have left relatives in the United States. The German authorities tell the legation that the estate is entirely mythical.

Henry M. Stanley will be a guest of King Leopold next month by the royal invitation. The king is said to be anxious to consult Stanley relative to the operations being conducted by the Congo free state against the slave traders.

It is said that the Pope has confirmed the decision of the propaganda in favor of the plan advocated by Archbishop Ireland of allowing American Catholic schools to be taught by state teachers, religious instruction being given after school hours, the object being to relieve Catholics of the burden of the expense of separate schools.

CLINTON—POMONA.

Clinton county Pomona Grange met with Bath Grange, April 13. The welcome address was given by Master Stamply. Sister Dills responded in a few well chosen words.

The paper by Mrs. Varney Pierce on "The necessity of teaching writing in the common schools," was very carefully prepared and full of good common sense. The Grange voted to have the paper published and we hope the teachers and others who have our schools in charge will not fail to read and profit by it.

The subject of "Dairying in connection with general farming," by John C. Brunson was discussed by that gentleman in a very able manner. Mr. Brunson stated that he sold from his four cows for the eight months, commencing April 1, 1892, about \$130 worth of cream. He also thought farmers made a great mistake in allowing their straw stacks to stand in the fields, but that they should be spread and plowed under.

I. D. Richmond read some extracts on "The single tax question;" but owing to the lateness of the hour it was not discussed.

Bath Grange furnished good music, both quartets and solos by Mesdames, Stamply and McGonegal.

Pomona wishes Bath Grange a long and useful life and they certainly deserve it.

O. L. BECKWITH, Lecturer.

NOW AND THEN.

A howling swell—An ulcerated tooth.

The young lady without an engagement ring has nothing on hand to speak of.—Dallas News.

"Oh, that must be too lovely for anything," said Hortensia when she read an account of a stage robbery in the far west.

"Lovely to be robbed?" asked Uncle John.

"Lovely to be held up," said Hortensia with a roseate blush.—Boston Transcript

Below Mason-Dixons justly celebrated line the sunbonnet is remarkably prevalent. Quite generally it is made of black material. The black sunbonnet is one of the saddest things I know of. Especially is this true if it has lost its vertebra. One can stand the vertebrated sunbonnet, but not the other kind. In fact it cannot stand itself.

The flipflap sunbonnet, made of crape or black calico and belonging to the radiata or mollusk family, would cast a gloom over a hanging and take away all its cheerful aspect. The enervated sunbonnet made of a large black pancake that soured before it could "raise" is a sad sight. While I have been tempted in my youth to sneak up into the fragrant recesses of a freshly starched white sunbonnet, and linger there for an instant, I do not think I could have done so if it had been one of the black and nervously prostrated variety. It seems so now, at least.—Bill Nye.

CORN.

[Continued from Page 7.]

substances for a fifty bushel crop of corn.

The fertilizers which were of the best grade, were applied broadcast and harrowed into the soil just before planting the corn. The manure was drawn direct from the horse stable, about the first of May and immediately scattered and plowed under.

THE RESULT SHOWS

1. That two-thirds applications of fertilizers gave better yields of corn than full doses.

2. That two-thirds applications of manure produced practically as much corn as full dressings.

3. That the horse manure gave better results than the commercial goods.

The third point tallies closely with other experiments made here, which show that commercial fertilizers have slight effect on the yield of corn, but produce their best results when applied to the wheat crop.

Judge: "What sort of a man, now, was it you saw commit the assault?" Constable: "Sure, your honor, he was a small insignificant cratur about your own size, your honor!"—Tid-Bits.

"You havn't heard anything until you have heard both sides," says a writer. This may be very pretty logic, but the big drum refutes it.—Tid-Bits.

SEVENTEEN YEARS.

Worcester Co., Mass., Apr. 4, '92. MR. EDITOR: Dear sir: I have used the Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints for over seventeen years and have been so well pleased with the durability and color lasting quality of the same that I have used no other, nor will I so long as I can procure the Ingersoll Ready Mixed Paints. Fraternally yours, W. F. SAWYER. [See Adv. Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints.—Ed.]

May Offer No. 2 Any Subordinate Grange

Sending in at one time a list of TEN SUBSCRIBERS or more to THE GRANGE VISITOR during the month of May, under the seal of the Secretary of the Grange, can have the paper until

New Years 1893

For 20 Cts

For Each Subscription

See Offer No. 3

Will You Help ?

Us increase our subscription list? How can you do it? Well, the next time you see neighbor "B" ask him to give you a

Quarter

So that you can send it to us. We will then send

The Grange Visitor

to him until Jan. 1,

1893

(Send the name on the blank below after cutting it out.)

GRANGE VISITOR: Find inclosed postal note for 25c for which send THE GRANGE VISITOR until Jan. 1, 1893, to Name Address Yours truly.

PATRONS AGENTS WANTED

In every Grange in the United States and Canada Send for Circulars and Full Particulars. An active member in every Lodge of F. & A. M., I. O. O. F., K. of P., I. O. R. M., K. G. E., U. O. A. M., R. A. K. of H., A. O. U. W., K. O. T. M., G. A. R. Liberal inducements. Exclusive territory now assigned. Only members of the said Orders employed. Address: FRATERNITY FINE ART CO. P. O. Box 1572, Boston, Mass. Please mention this paper when you write.

HUSBANDRY.



Rheumatism, Scrofula, Eczema and Inflammation of the Eyes cured. Address. DR. W. H. ROSS, Grand Rapids, Mich.

PRESSES OF ROBERT SMITH & CO., LANSING, MICH.