

# GRANGE VISITOR

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

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WHOLE NO. 405.

## MICHIGAN RAILROADS.

Their Cost, Traffic, Income, and Relation to the Business and Farming Classes.

MAJ. W. C. RANSOM.

Michigan became a State about the time of the first construction of railroads in this country. In fact the second locomotive engine sent west of the Alleghany mountains was for use upon the Erie and Kalamazoo railroad between Toledo and Adrian, now a part of the great Lake Shore and Michigan Southern system. That was in the year 1836, and from that short piece of road traversing what had before been an almost impassable swamp originated the vast web of tracks now extended into nearly every county of the two peninsulas comprising the State.

The earliest legislatures of Michigan commenced thoroughly imbued with the spirit of railroad building and adopted plans of internal improvement which the more conservative of the people deemed Utopian to the last degree. These plans contemplated the building of three great lines of road across the State. The Central from Detroit to St. Joseph, the Southern from Monroe to New Buffalo, or some other point near the intersection of the south boundary of the State with Lake Michigan, and the Northern extending from Port Huron to Grand Haven. No provision was made for the construction of north and south roads as all that portion of the State north of the projected line of the Northern road, was an unexplored wilderness, most of it unblazed even by the sawyer's axe, and believed to be largely swamp and valueless for purposes of civilization. Congress conceded liberal grants of public lands in aid of the magnificent scheme of internal improvement and five millions of bonds were voted by the legislature to hasten its fruition at an early day. But progress in the projected enterprises proved to be slow. The financial distress that followed the speculative period of 1835-36 weighed heavily upon the infant state. Its bonds became unnegotiable and no market could be found for its internal improvement lands, which were subsequently frittered away in furtherance of almost every imaginable scheme for road building and slack water navigation, and so after struggling along for ten years and having completed the Central as far as Kalamazoo, the Southern to Hillsdale and partially graded the Northern between Port Huron and Lapeer, the people concluded that the building and operating of railroads by the State government was not a success, so in 1846 the Central and Southern Railroad Companies were incorporated and the State sold to them the two principal roads completed as above stated and abandoned further work on the Northern for all time. The constitutional convention of 1850 inhibited, in the constitution now in force, the State from further connection with internal improvements and since that time the prosecution of railroad building in Michigan has been left entirely to private enterprise, and in the best interest of the State, no thinking man can doubt.

That early system of railroads, at the time, by so many deemed far beyond the present or prospective needs of the people long since became an accomplished fact, and a glance at our railroad map will easily show how far short it has proven of the demands of our commerce for inland transportation. In addition to the three

great trunk lines first projected four others have been completed practically across the State. Three have been put in operation from the straits of Mackinac to our southern boundary, while across them all, in a great ecliptic sweeps another, connecting the waters of Lake Michigan at Frankfort with those of Lake Erie at Toledo. The upper peninsula has been gridironed with tracks reaching to every mining and lumbering district and every county within its boundaries, while roads of minor importance to the State at large but of the greatest convenience and value to the local communities reached, now furnish outlets to the commercial centers from nearly every district of the commonwealth. From the report of the Commissioner of Railroads for 1891 we learn that the miles of track completed in Michigan at the beginning of that year were 6,957.27 or nearly seven times the extent of that projected by the early administrations of the State. The reported cost of our railroad properties at the last mentioned date was \$281,205,724 or \$40,420 per mile, which includes the cost of equipment in use. That this figure is in excess of the actual cost of the properties must be conceded. The property account of a railroad corporation is generally written to cover stock and debt, which from the report above quoted appears to be \$4,040 per mile in excess of the reported cost which for Michigan would give an aggregate of \$2,810,628. It is very difficult to arrive at the real approximate cost, even of new railroad properties. In many if not most instances, it is not known to the railroad managements themselves. Frequently the stock is given as a bonus with the bonds, and still more frequently full paid stock is issued when far short of its par value has been realized to the company. With the imitations incident to the management and ownership of railroads, reliable accounts covering these particulars are not attainable and capital statements are based largely upon figures agreed upon by purchasers of bankrupt roads.

The reported capital stock paid in at the close of 1890 was \$338,199,053 or \$23,019 per mile. Of this vast sum only \$9,636,725 was held by Michigan stockholders.

At the date last mentioned the indebtedness of our railroad corporations was \$32,711 per mile which would give for Michigan \$327,570,427. The total interest account for 1890 was \$18,881,525, of which \$10,384,387 would be chargeable to Michigan's account.

The entire income of Michigan railroads for 1890 was \$94,096,856.33 the proportion for this State being \$36,165,108. The total expense of operation and taxes during the same period was \$63,925,091, the Michigan proportion being \$25,207,037 and the net earnings \$10,958,071 or about \$1,574 per mile, from which fixed charges and rentals had to be paid, leaving in fact an average net for the stockholders of only about \$415 per mile, the expenses, interest and rentals absorbing 93.34 per cent of the gross earnings. Of the entire list of companies eight only returned anything to the stockholders, \$178,270,572.70 being non-productive capital. The amount of dividends and interest on the funded debt of the corporations for the year 1890 was \$26,736,188, averaging \$2,100.93 per mile of road and 3.82 per cent upon the reported cost of the property. Assuming that the later is reported one-fourth in excess of real values, there would still be less than five per cent paid to the bond holders and stockholders with no provision

made for covering deterioration of property, which is certainly a small return upon the capital invested.

The total tons of freight moved by our railroads during 1890 was 63,434,224, of which 26,182,257 were forwarded from Michigan stations, or about 41 per cent. Of commodities moved the following were in heaviest volume: Grains, 6,081,849 tons, 9.59 per cent; flour, tons, 1,663,898, 2.62 per cent; provisions, meats, etc., tons 1,580,902, 2.49 per cent; animals, tons, 2,104,688, 3.32 per cent; other agricultural products, 1,569,725 tons, 2.48 per cent; lumber and forest products, 20.84 per cent; merchandise 8,501,093 tons, 13.40 per cent. The average charge on each ton of freight moved was \$100.7, the average haul being 145 miles and the average rate per ton per mile a fraction less than eight mills. The total number of passengers carried on Michigan roads during 1890 was 33,503,059. I am unable to state the proportion of these within the State of Michigan but the average ride by each passenger was 35.26 miles for which he paid an average of 70.56 cents, the average rate per mile from all passengers being 2.37 cents.

From the foregoing it will be seen how important the relation which exists between our railroad corporations and the great industrial classes of the State. Their interests are reciprocal and any line of policy which opposes the one must certainly bring disaster to the other. While it is true that our people are in the aggregate paying large sums to the railroad companies as traffic charges, still it must not be forgotten that the railroads have largely added to the value of each agricultural product, and each article manufactured, by the cheapness with which it can be sent to market, while the increased values of realty by reason of the extension of railroads into the remotest districts of the State is quite beyond computation. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that a large portion of the amounts paid each year by our people to railroad corporations for freight charges and passenger fares, is again returned to them through the hands of the 26,000 employes engaged in various capacities upon our railroads in Michigan. Add to wages the vast sums annually disbursed for material and supplies of every kind entering into the construction, maintenance and operation of our railroad property, we can then appreciate the help they are to us in the building up and supporting a large industrial population.

It is believed that Michigan in legislating police regulations for the government of its railroad corporations is in advance of most of its sister states. The laws provide for close and strong right of way fences and cattle guards, for convenient and suitable farm crossings, upon the application of the farmers to the railroad commissioner. Proper highway and street crossings must also be maintained and at exposed points protected by automatic signals or safety gates. At railroad crossings the grades must be either separated or protected by interlocking devices which enable trains to pass them without stopping. Michigan was one of the first states to provide for the use of automatic couplers upon the freight cars run upon its roads, and to insist upon the blocking of switches and frogs, which previously were such terrible causes of death to train and yard men. Car stoves are no longer permitted on our trains, and on most of our roads have been replaced with approved appliances for the heating of cars with steam from the locomotive.

Passengers are protected against assault or indignity while traveling upon trains. The right of way must be kept clear of dangerous trees and noxious weeds, and in every respect the legal rights of the citizen must be respected by the corporation. These regulations have been efficiently enforced by our railroad commissioner until the accidents upon our railroads have been reduced to a minimum, the reports for 1890 showing that only seven passengers were killed during that year, which was but one for each 5,489,728 train miles run. It is but justice to add that the railroad managements have as a rule cooperated with our railroad commissioners in the enforcement of our laws, and complied with the requirements of the railroad department made in the interest of the public, as the exigencies of the situation seemed to demand. From the foregoing, while as a rule the railroad corporations are solvent and their properties in a fairly prosperous condition, it is also apparent that these last are not the prolific services of gain which they are so frequently represented, and so many of our people believe them to be. Under the encouragement of our liberal and yet conservative legislation they have been rapidly extended into uncultivated and sparsely settled localities where it will be many years, if ever, that the traffic will yield adequate return upon the capital invested. Consequently they are in no condition to meet excessive taxation or too exacting legislation. Such a policy would not only prove ruinous to existing properties, but prevent the construction of new ones into districts not provided with railroad facilities. A large proportion of our railroad, has been built for the purpose of carrying our forest products to desirable markets. The forests are being rapidly stripped of their wealth and the lumber industry is fast drawing to its close. It is becoming a serious question what is to be the effect of this loss of traffic to our railroad corporations, nearly all of which are to be affected by it. But it is agreed in all quarters, that they will have to live along as best they can, until the stump lands which they traverse, available for agricultural uses, have been occupied and cultivated, replacing with the products of husbandry those of the woodman's ax. Years will be requisite to that end and meanwhile the people of Michigan must remember the fable of the men that killed the goose that laid him the golden egg, and profit from his folly.

## SOME GOOD ADVICE.

The following excerpt from a paper by Hon. J. H. Brigham, Worthy Master of the National Grange, is pertinent at this time: "The official position which I hold in the Order brings me no additional wisdom touching economical questions, and I would under no circumstances be justified in assuming to speak with authority. No official, no subordinate, no State or National Grange, has the right to restrict, in any way whatever, the political freedom of any member of the Order.

"It is the privilege of each individual to decide all such questions for him or herself, and when resolutions upon such questions are adopted by a majority or by a unanimous vote of any such body in our Order, a member who honestly differs with such expressed views has a perfect right so to do, and give his reasons therefor.

"It is not the mission of the Order to curtail freedom of thought, but to enlarge it. This refers, of course, to action upon questions

pertaining to matters not peculiar to our Order. When these bodies speak upon Grange law or usage then the authority is unquestioned.

"I refer to this for the reason that some of the brothers seem to feel that any resolution adopted by a majority of the voting members of an official body of the Order upon any economic question in some way commits those who do not agree with the majority to the support of measures which they do not approve, and to oppose measures which they do approve.

"I do not so understand it. It is simply an expression of the opinion of those who vote affirmatively, and does not commit the Order or any member who does not agree with the majority.

"It should be understood as an expression of the views of the majority, and then, when the membership of the higher bodies change, as it does change, if the majority should think differently, and express opposite views, it would not show that the Order was vacillating or inconsistent, but that every member was at liberty to vote his sentiments without regard to what others may have said.

"The Grange, unlike the courts, is a progressive Order, not governed or bound by precedents. I have sometimes wondered if our brothers would recognize the authority if it should happen to differ radically with their wellknown views.

"It must be understood that there are radical differences of opinion among our members upon all economic questions, and it is impossible to decide upon which side a majority of the rank and file are found.

"It is natural for each one to think the majority must be with him because he is sure that he is right; but coming in contact as I do with large bodies of our members, I find it impossible to tell from observation where the majority would appear, if any economic question was, after full discussion, submitted to a vote of the entire membership.

"In one section it is decidedly one-sided, in another section is decidedly the other-sided, and for these reasons it would certainly be a mistake to attempt to commit the Order to either side. We want them all. We welcome them all, and guarantee to all absolute freedom of religious and political thought.

## THE MAGAZINES.

The most significant, and the only full utterance so far by Mr. Blaine in the present national canvass, will be his article entitled "The Presidential Campaign of 1892" in the *North American Review* for November. He speaks with vigor, making some points that are entirely new in the discussion of the issues, and his article is marked with that vigor and that purity of style for which Mr. Blaine is distinguished.

Mr. George Edward Woodbury, in his admirable paper on John Greenleaf Whittier, has contributed perhaps the ablest critical review on Whittier's place in literature which either has appeared or will appear; and as is fitting in the pages of the *Atlantic*, to which Whittier has been so constant a contributor, Dr. Holmes has contributed a poem to his memory. The feeling which the autocrat shows in these verses is so real that one forgets their poetic form, and they seem but the natural outpouring of the affection of a brother poet. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps has also a touching poem on Whittier, which was written as he lay dying.

Mr. Howells will begin in the November *Cosmopolitan*, a department under the attractive title, "A Traveler from Altruria." Those who have seen the first two papers think they will equal in interest and in their wide appeal to all classes, the Breakfast Table Papers of Dr. Holmes. In order to give the necessary time to this work, Mr. Howells has turned over the detail editorial work to Mr. Walker.



## Field and Stock.

### LESSONS OF THE SEASON.

A few thoughts gathered from the experiences of a number of Michigan farmers during the season just past.

#### A BIT OF HISTORY.

The spring opened with activity in my flock of Shropshire ewes. The ultimate result was a doubling of the number. The wool clips selling from 12 to 22 cents (unwashed), did not make me a millionaire. I have escaped that temptation, and cannot go to the U. S. Senate.

The potatoes we planted early in April turned out well. Those planted about corn planting were an utter failure, blight at the root. Very late potatoes are turning out fairly well. The heavy rains from 27th April to 30th May—8 inches—probably hurt the potatoes. I got my corn in all right on sandy land and am now husking a good average crop. On clay and timbered lands, corn could not be planted, hence many farms have no corn at all. But corn planted in June and July, wonderful to relate, has made a good crop. Sowing in faith sometimes succeeds you see. But we had no killing frost until the 5th of October and that helped faith out. Great breadth of oats, but yield not heavy. Wheat wrinkled down badly on clay or timber lands, so the yield was disappointing. Raised on sandy land went 17 bushels of excellent quality. The market prices of wheat, now 62 to 65 cents, is not such as to elate us into arrogance. Dairy products have not been so high as to lead our ladies into wild extravagances in the matter of dress. Indeed, the farm here has been more reliable and comforting to the fair sex. Potatoes, because of failure, have been bringing from \$1 to 50 cents. For the first time in 21 years I have to buy potatoes. The fact grinds me. I pride myself upon

#### Root Crops.

My rutabagas, mangolds and carrots are all. So I ought not to complain. My orchard has yielded me just two bushels of miserable apologies called apples. Yet in May the orchard bloomed gloriously. I guess the rains prevented bees and other insects working the work of fertilization. The bumble bees were destroyed too, hence our seed clover is almost worthless. A neighbor of mine threshed all day with a powerful huller and got 6 bushels! How dependent we are upon small things! yet strawberries and raspberries we had in abundance and plenty of peas. I let my aftermath of clover go back to enrich the land instead of cutting for seed. I hope wisdom may justify her child.

The price of farm stock of all kinds is scarcely fair, except sheep, which pay. Hogs are scarce, but still not profitable if you feed much corn. My crop of acorns will help me out!

With supreme faith, farmers have sown a large acreage of wheat this fall, done the work unusually well, and the crop looks well on moist lands with fair weather—the conditions, as to weather and so forth, this fall has been unusually good.

Taken altogether we have had a

#### Pretty Good Season.

All have something to eat and sell. The hay crop was enormous—something to brag about, if that were in order.

If farmers could only have realized a fair profit on all their products there would be nothing to complain of. But why should mortal man complain? Least of all the farmer! He may be in the doldrums just now but the time is coming when, like afflicted Job, he shall be rewarded many fold.

J. H. FORSTER.

Williamston.

#### THE OLD STORY.

This season farmers are still taking their post graduate course in trusts and combines. And I believe that when they have finished the lessons of the year and have been robbed of their last dollar, with nothing left but day's works, a pair of stogy boots, blue overalls and jacket, they will begin to see the need of taking a hand at combination themselves. I shall not say a word about the advantage of such action. All readers of the GRANGE VISITOR are familiar with this sub-

ject. It has been talked over and over in the Grange and farmers' clubs with no apparent benefit. Farmers are terribly afraid of each other in matters of mutual benefit. In fact I believe the average farmers could not purchase and divide a barrel of standard granulated sugar in a cloudless day, with the best Fairbanks scales, but one-half of them would believe themselves cheated. Such distrust makes it easy to keep their noses on the grindstone, and it is good enough for them. Can't they see all about them examples of successful combines and strikes where only a few hundred ignorant foreigners make terms and prices such as they wish, and in the end the farmers pay for all.

#### Sheep vs Cattle.

Last year on account of lame sheep, I was obliged to feed my entire flock, usually about twelve hundred, and substitute cattle, and I find though very fortunate in sales, that the earning power of sheep as to cattle, is greatly in favor of sheep.

#### Dehorning.

I am greatly pleased with my experience with dehorned cattle; dehorning has come to stay. In future, horns will be at a discount on Fairview farm.

#### Prompt Sales.

This season emphasizes our previous experience in the great loss in holding produce for a higher price in the future. Within the radius of six miles about Fairview (30,000) thirty thousand bushels of wheat were kept over from last year's crop incurring a loss to the growers of twelve thousand dollars. As an absolute rule I believe that all farm produce should be sold as soon as in condition for market unless the price is below the average cost of production.

L. D. WATKINS.

#### Manchester.

#### STRAY THOUGHTS ON WHEAT GROWING.

It is said we are never too old to learn. Each season brings to the farmer lessons of wisdom, if he will but heed them. Antiquated and fossilized as the reader may call me, I have always been a firm advocate of the old-fashioned summer fallow.

I will briefly cite my experience with the last season's wheat crop. Having previously determined on being (as far as practicable) my own administrator, I had distributed a large portion of my lands—especially the best part of them—leaving to myself a limited area, which comprises the newer portions of a new country farm. Originally this was a region of heavily timbered land—wherein a dense growth of beech, maple, basswood or linden and elm timbers was interspersed with giant pines. The predominatory soils are gravel, and yet varying quite widely in their composition, being quite sandy in places, but an element of red clay is almost everywhere present in the soil. This composition always insures us the very finest quality of wheat, whether the yield be great or small. My last crop consisted of 30 acres—the one-half summer fallow, the other half pea and barley stubble. My gross yield was 666 bushels; being 221.5 bushels per acre throughout. One-half of the ground was largely occupied by stumps, so that on 12 acres of ground there should be deducted at least three acres for stumps. The average on my summer fallow was 27 bushels. That of my stubble ground 17 bushels. Ten acres of my summer fallow which had been cleared of stumps at a cost of \$192, produced 30 bushels per acre. I consider it was well cultivated. I will give

#### The Process.

It was clover sod—but the June grass or Kentucky blue grass had so far crowded out the clover as to render it valueless as a meadow. It was well plowed, 7 or 8 inches deep, between the 20th of June and the 4th of July. The plow was followed closely with the roller, from day to day, and the harrow lengthwise of the furrows, close after the roller so as to fill all crevices and smother the June grass. About half the piece had a slight dressing of manure—the whole piece should have had it, but the supply fell short. It was harrowed frequently so as to keep it clean and especially to break the crust, and keep up free circulation between the atmosphere and

the lower regions of the seed bed. I consider this last a very important point. The atmosphere is a vast chemical laboratory, wherein the most valuable fertilizing properties are being all the while formulated. The process goes on while we are asleep. If our soils are kept thoroughly pulverized they will absorb an indefinite amount of nature's free fertility—but if the surface is allowed to become crusted over, the winds will sweep on these most valuable properties, either to benefit the next neighbor who is a better farmer, or to poison the air with sickness and malarial disease. This is science in my homespun practical way. Well, in August it was cross-plowed, between the middle and last of the month—as shallow as possible, so as not to disturb the sod that had been turned under—then twice harrowed and rolled down smooth. Now I considered it ready for the seed, which was drilled in at the rate of two bushels (white Clawson wheat) to the acre. It is now my opinion, that 1½ bushels of seed would have been just as good and that the last half bushel was thrown away. We Michigan farmers

#### Must raise Wheat.

No use in saying "it don't pay." We have got to raise it, and I insist it does pay, if we know how to handle it.

I often tell my men to bear in mind that no man ever got rich by raising poor crops. We've always got to take our chances, but we should cultivate for a good crop every time, and then when we have a poor season we are quite sure to get something.

What would Michigan do without her wheat crop? For the past 12 or 15 years our annual product has varied from 21 to 31 millions. The average has been about 26 millions, bringing, in these modern times of low prices, about 20 millions of dollars a year. In amount it throws all our other cereals in the shade; and then it is *always cash*.

Whatever may be the opinions of others, I believe it pays me to summer fallow, and I can name some other men who make it pay, too.

ENOS GOODRICH.  
Fostoria.

#### THOROUGH CULTIVATION.

At the request of the editor we will endeavor to give the readers of the VISITOR the benefit of some of the lessons learned during the past season.

The one thing which has impressed us more forcibly than all else is the fact that weeds grow fast and hired men work slow.

The continued rains during May and June brought home to us the truth that weeds, like bad boys, had better die young, and that eternal vigilance is the price of a clean corn field. Owing to lack of culture at the proper time, our corn has cost us twice the usual amount of labor, and with all our efforts, some weeds have been left to mature their seeds which at some future time are sure to arise and condemn our farming—or rather lack of farming. We were obliged to keep the cultivator going in our corn and potatoes through the haying and harvest season and we believe that no investment made during the year has paid as well in clear profit as this labor.

Our observation for a number of years among the farmers of Michigan leads us to believe that the cultivated crops of the State might be increased fully one-third in yield by more thorough and systematic cultivation.

As this article must be short we close with the admonition to cultivate and withhold not thy hand.

PERRY MAYO.

#### Battle Creek.

#### A FEW HINTS ON RAISING CORN.

The corn crop is about the most important crop on the farm. It takes a good deal of labor to raise the crop but we get in return a nice bin of grain, also the stalks, and if we have done our duty by the ground, we have exterminated a lot of weeds and put it in good shape for the next crop.

I never was much of a friend to fall plowing for corn. It takes a lot of work in the spring just at the time of sowing oats and gives the grass a splendid start for the summer. Like to plow about 7 inches deep, would plow deeper if there was much June or blue grass in the

land. Roll and work with a spring tooth harrow until it is mellow. I like to roll before marking. Think the crop can be cultivated sooner. I think too many farmers are in a hurry to get in their corn. It will not grow until the soil gets warm. But the weeds grow if the corn does not and trouble all summer. I think generally from the 20th to the 25th of May is about the right time to plant.

Never send a lazy man to cultivate corn for on this work depends more the success of the crop (if the soil and weather are good) than any thing else. Some advocate deep cultivating, some shallow, but in either case keep the ground as near level as possible.

Some farmers say, "I don't have time to work my corn as much as it ought to have been." Well, just try a smaller piece next time and put the same work on it until you find the exact amount of land you can tend.

Now, two hints in regard to disposing of the crop. 1. Don't let the wind blow it out of your stock, i. e., keep them warm and give them a plenty of it. 2. Have some good thrifty stock to feed it to and the corn crop will always pay.

O. L. BECKWITH.

#### Victor.

#### KEEPING APPLES.

The proper way to keep apples is first keep the best that grow. The trouble with many farmers is they try to keep what they can't sell or give away and this is poor economy; for apples make not only healthy but cheap living—and if there is any one that should have the best it is those that grow the fruit—apples properly picked and packed will keep till the first of July; and the way I think to do this is, first, care should be used in picking and packing, placing only the best apples in the barrel and be very sure to use only clean barrels and fill as full as you can, press the head in, then move to the cellar door. Lay them down on sticks,—these should be long enough for each barrel to be rolled half over. Do this twice a week till about the 15th of December then place in the cellar where it will be as cold as possible, or just below freezing, and do not move again till you open for use. I have tried this plan for several years, and the 25th of last June we had Northern Spies nearly as fresh as when taken from the tree and did not lose more than one peck from a barrel.

#### A SUBSCRIBER.

#### HOLDING THE WHEAT.

As I have looked over my books which show the date when I have sold, and the price I have received for every bushel of wheat I have raised since 1868, and the figures show that had I sold every year soon after I threshed I would have done much better than I did by holding, to say nothing of the waste and shrinkage from different causes, which is no small amount.

As it has been my fortune to pay interest the most of the time since the close of the war, I want to say to all who are doing it now, that it is my opinion they will pay their debts easier and faster by raising good, clean wheat and selling it as soon as they can conveniently after threshing, thereby stop paying interest.

D. H. ENGLISH.

Chandler.

#### LINCOLN NOTES.

Since the fine exhibit of Lincoln's at the State Fair the sales have been rapid.

J. J. England of Caro has imported 25 choice ones.

O. D. Hichcock of Charlotte has bought the English bred yearling ram Lord Stanley and seven choice ewes in Canada.

H. A. Daniells of Elva has shipped the registered ram lamb McKinley, No. 59, and five unregistered yearling ewes to Granville, Ohio, also two two-year-old ewes and three lambs, all registered, to Ovid.

W. S. Allen of Saranac reports his lambs all sold out at an average of \$20 each.

A. H. Warren, the Chester White breeder, has caught the Lincoln fever and goes to Ontario the 28th in company with H. A. Daniells in search of some choice ones.

Wm. Shier of Marlette has bought the first prize lamb at State fair to head his flock.

P. B. Smith of St. Johns is another Lincoln enthusiast, having

paid Robert Knight of Marlette \$140 for four head (good ones).

G. S. Allen & Son of Mulliken have 25 pedigrees in for registry, 54 have come in in one week for registration.

SEC. MICH. LINCOLN S. B. ASS'N.

#### THE ROBIN.

During the season of 1891 and 1892 the Ohio Experiment station has been investigating the food of the robin. The robin has become so troublesome to berry growers in some sections that the question has been raised, "does he do more good than harm, or vice versa?" Investigations, more or less extended, carried on elsewhere have left the question undecided, nor was it hoped that the question might be settled once for all, as it is somewhat changeable in his diet, usually eating that which comes most directly in his way. When berries are abundant he lives on them almost exclusively, and when nothing else offers he can subsist upon insects and various kinds of seeds. For example, the first robins that were shot early in March were found to have eaten but little else than asparagus berries, which were abundant on the station grounds and in good condition. In April, after the ground had thawed and it became possible for the robins to get such food, the larvae of several species of insects were found in their stomachs. In June insect food was partially given up for berries, and in July but little else besides was taken. Later in the season the proportion of insect food became higher again. This shows that the robin takes the food which is most convenient and plentiful, although he seems to prefer fruit when it is to be had. Two hundred and one robins were shot and their stomachs examined during the two seasons, and more than half of the insect and other food found to have been taken by them was beneficial; less than one-fourth were injurious insects, while the remainder are classed as neutral, i. e., are not known to do either good or harm.

So far as numbers are concerned, the robin seems to take more things that are useful to mankind than of those that do us harm. This does not give ground for condemning the robin altogether as some feel like doing, nor does it show him to be so useful as many have thought him to be. The trouble is just here, the law protects the robin and the fruit grower is liable if he seeks to defend himself with a shot gun, and yet he has the bill to pay for the good that the robin does for the general public. The berry grower has much to complain of against the robin, and but very little to thank him for, while those who do not grow fruit have reason to regard the robin quite as much a friend as an enemy. It is simply a matter of unequal taxation and is perhaps quite as difficult to adjust as taxation of any other kind. It is easy enough in this case to determine that the tariff is a tax, also who pays it; but who shall say what is to be done about it? An effort was made a year or two ago to repeal the law which protects the robin, but facts were scarce, and sympathy over-ruled.

When the fruit grower becomes aware that the robin is overreaching him there ought to be no question as to the legality of defending one's premises. There is no occasion to attempt the extermination of the robin, but there does seem to be good reason for trying to keep it in check, even though sentiment pleads the contrary course.

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture has decided not to hold a Fat Stock Show at Chicago this fall. The reason given is lack of proper room for the exhibit.

This will be a disappointment to many who have prepared stock for the show and to stock men generally who have come to make this show the occasion for the annual meetings of the live stock associations, the gathering of stock men from all over the country, a fact which has done much to increase the acquaintance of prominent stock breeders and feeders, give them opportunity to compare notes, learn of improved methods and gain inspiration and enthusiasm for progress in their work. Although an abandonment of this show is not contemplated its suspension for even one year is a calamity which the Illinois Board should have provided against.



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**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF BOTANY.**

G. H. HICKS.

No study can be more interesting to an intelligent farmer than that of plant life, since all the successful processes of the farm depend upon a knowledge of vegetable growth.

Had we space it would be of interest to trace the history of education, noting the prominence given to various subjects of study at different periods of history and in different countries.

The citizens of Sparta, twenty-five hundred years ago, when that nation was the leading one of Europe, were trained almost exclusively in athletics and the arts of war.

The Athenian schools, on the other hand, devoted their attention to mathematics, oratory, and speculative philosophy.

Coming down to modern times we find English educators laying particular stress upon the classics, especially Greek and Latin.

The Germans are noted for their scientific investigations, while American schools, perhaps more than others, are wider in their courses of study.

The average Yankee wants to know something about everything. Just at present the attention of American students seems to be about equally divided between political and "natural" science.

An earnest controversy, however, is often waged between certain educators who advocate the claims of language, history and other "literary" studies, and certain others who are as earnest in supporting scientific studies.

The truth, of course, is that one needs both a literary and scientific training in order to lay a sufficiently broad foundation for the best results in any line of work.

We should become acquainted with the world *without*, and the world *within*, or, as Professor Huxley puts it, "the ideal of a general, liberal training is to carry to us a knowledge of ourselves and the world."

The majority of people, however, know a great deal more about themselves or their neighbors, than they do concerning the world in which they live.

I do not intend, in this article, to magnify the value of any branch of science by depreciating any other department of knowledge, but I wish to point out the importance of botany and to show the place its study should occupy, not only in our colleges and schools of lower grade, but also, and chiefly, in the attention of the farmer, his wife and children.

I will define the term botany in its broadest sense as a knowledge of plant life in all its relations. Such a knowledge is the foundation of agriculture and horticulture, while chemistry, zoology, entomology, and the other so-called "natural" sciences are so intimately related to botany that they are all links of one great chain.

The study of botany may be considered from three standpoints: (1.) Its importance in the training of the mind. (2.) Its practical relations; and (3.) Its aesthetic value in helping us to form better views of life, to inculcate nobler desires and higher tastes.

An opinion seems to be somewhat prevalent that plants are suitable subjects of study for "old maids" and school girls, only, and if a man is seen carrying a plant can or press, he is at once suspected of being a patent right crank, a dynamiter, or at the least a sort of harmless enthusiast with nothing to do.

These opinions give way to better ones when the truth is known. I have never laid anything up against the well meaning old gentleman who seeing a plant can upon my shoulders, inquired if I was an agent for a patent ice cream freezer.

Attach as much value as we may to the "practical" value of a study, the real worth after all of any subject we investigate comes from the

mental training which is received. Professor Payne has truly remarked that "any study consciously learned for practical ends has but slight culture value."

It is undoubtedly true that, as a rule, the person who makes his mark, the best farmer, merchant or professional man is the one who has a clear grasp of the situation, whatever it may be, in which he is placed, together with a head trained to do good thinking and a hand trained in good doing.

The athlete who overcomes his antagonist is not the one who goes into special training for a certain contest, but he whose whole body has been steadily and constantly developed for endurance and agility.

Botany, as much as any other study, makes one alert to observe and quick to seize important advantages. Without this keen power of observation, which is the basis of knowledge, one's success in life will be very meagre.

It is surprising to note the number of people who pass through the world with their eyes shut, who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not.

It is needless to remark that in this day of fierce competition, no sleepy-heads will stand any show of success. The man who talks little but sees a good deal and makes good use of the knowledge thus gained is always ahead.

Plants are all about us in endless variety and profusion, can be studied at all times of the year, and are full of wonder, interest and usefulness to him who carefully watches them.

Botany has a great advantage over most sciences in the abundance of material and its accessibility for study.

House plants, the weeds in our door yards and fields, the crops upon which we depend for our food and a large part of our income, the fruits in the orchard, grasses in the meadow, trees in our woods, all afford subjects for the keenest thought and of the utmost interest.

Again, and of great importance to the farmer on account of his frequently isolated condition, botany may be studied to a considerable extent without a teacher. It is true he will miss many of the best things, get on the wrong track oftentimes and come to erroneous conclusions in this way, but a few hints, especially at the beginning, coupled with patient investigation and earnest determination, will open to his eyes many new facts—in reality a new world to which he was a stranger before.

The apparatus required for plant study is cheap and simple. A pocket magnifier costing seventy-five cents, a sharp knife, a note book and pencil, and, above all, a pair of eyes that can see, constitute the necessary equipment. Many books are not needed, as the plants themselves are to be studied, not simply what other people have said about them. Give a boy, or man either, the equipment mentioned, with a live, growing plant before him, and you start him on a voyage of discovery which may prove second in importance only to that of Columbus. He will discover soon that he is only an infinitesimal fraction of a very large and wonderful world.

One of the main advantages of botanical investigation is that it is a study of things. Formerly nearly everyone depended upon the authority of a few for whatever ideas they possessed. At the present time there is a spirit of questioning which pervades all realms of thought. While it is true that much of our knowledge is not within the reach of our personal observation it is equally true that wherever possible it is infinitely better to see things for ourselves and form our own opinions. Better to occasionally get a wrong idea than to always depend upon what others tell us. The more we look at a plant the more we can see and the better developed do our powers of observation become. But mere seeing without thinking is of little value in training the mind.

Botany awakens the curiosity and sets one to thinking.

Myriads of questions arise in the mind of one who studies plant life, questions relating to structure, to movements of plants and the fluids within them, the adaptations of different plants to different conditions of soil and climate, the origin of various diseases of plants and the best remedies to counteract them, all of which require the deepest thought.

In studying plant relationships, habits of orderly arrangement are developed. Botany trains the memory better than many other studies since facts are presented first to the eye and thus fixed on the mind. The absorbing attention given to the plant as the student looks at it through his pocket lens or attempts to draw its structure in his notebook produces a mental picture not easily effaced.

Turning from the mental training which botanical study affords to the more practical side of the subject seems hardly necessary, in an agricultural journal. There is no more practical occupation than farming, and farmers have more to do with plants than any other class of people unless it is the botanists themselves.

What can be more practical to the farmer than a knowledge of the best forage plants, including the grasses and clovers? the best varieties of wheat, oats or other plants for certain soils; the most hardy, palatable and salable kinds of fruits; the relations of manures, soils, seasons and climate to plant growth; the many fungus diseases, such as rusts, smuts and mildews and the best methods of checking them?

It is estimated that the farmers of Michigan alone have lost over a million dollars from wheat smut this year. Would the saving of this amount have been of any practical value?

A knowledge of those great pests of agriculture—their structure, growth, and the means to exterminate them is gained by a study of botany. One botanist, at least, of this country, goes further and shows how weeds can be made of substantial money value used as fertilizers for farm crops.

We wish to emphasize another important benefit which may accrue from the study of botany, and one that may not have been thought of: *It will help to keep the boys on the farm.* Nothing will inspire a keener relish for agricultural pursuits than a close acquaintance with plants. Not merely because such a knowledge will enable the farmer to attain greater profits for his labor, but also because as one studies plants his love for nature will be a thousand fold enhanced, and one will thus come to desire to dwell with nature rather than in the crowded, dusty, almost vegetationless city. This love for nature cannot be too carefully fostered.

There is a great tendency to over-practicalness. We must never forget that life means much more than earning our bread and butter or acquiring wealth. The pleasures and benefits which come to one who loves and studies plants cannot be measured by a dollars and cents rule. The broadening of the mental horizon, a lively interest in the natural world about us and in the Creator of all this beauty and usefulness is, after all, the highest benefit and beyond all estimate.

The effect of constant association with flowers, their beautiful tints and subtle perfumes develops an aesthetic and moral sense that the most fervid poetry or eloquent sermon may sometimes fail to do. An interest once awakened in plants is easily extended to other subjects calculated to develop one's mind and character.

We need something often to take our minds away from the discomforts of farm life, from worry and fret. Shall we leave all the pleasure and benefit to be derived from such study to the professional man, or to those alone who have leisure and money? Who have a better right to become acquainted with the beauties of nature than the farmers, their wives and children?

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**A YOUNG MAN'S CHANCES.**

A mother who now sends out a son into the business world launches him at a time when the chances are all in favor of a young man, writes Edward W. Beck, in "At Home with the Editor," in the October *Ladies' Home Journal*. Business men were never more willing to place large trusts upon the shoulders of young men than they are today. "Young blood," as it is called, is the life of the modern business world, and is everywhere sought. In New York the demand for the right kind of young men in all capacities is far greater than the supply, and what is true of New York is true of all the large cities. Bear in mind however, I say the right kind of young men, and by that classification I mean young men who are willing to work, and work hard. The day of the young man who works by the clock, eagerly watching for the hour when the office shall close, has gone by, even if it ever existed. Hundreds of young men are energetic in a new position until its novelty wears off and then become mere machines whose places can be filled at a day's notice.

No mother need have undue anxiety for the success of a son who this autumn or winter steps out into the business world, so long as he bears in mind a few essential points.

He must be honest above all things, and allow nothing to convince him that there is a compromise between honesty and dishonesty.

He must be an out and out believer in the homely but forcible saying that a man cannot drink whisky and be in business.

He must, too, decide between a society man or a business man; he cannot be both.

He must make his life outside the office the same as in it, and not be possessed with the prevalent idea that his employer has no business to question his movements outside of office hours. An employer has every right to expect his employes to be respectable at all times, in the office or out of it.

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When a woman of such unquestionably high position in New York society as that occupied by Mrs. Burton Harrison consents to define the best and most careful social laws for girls, our young women can well afford to listen and remember. There is every indication for a most agreeable interest in the series of articles on "The Well-Bred Girl in Society," which Mrs. Harrison will begin in the November issue of *The Ladies' Home Journal*. Mrs. Harrison will, in this series, take up every phase of a girl's life in society, and point out to her principally the mistakes it is wisest for her to avoid.

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## Our Offers.

- I. For two new names for one year we will send a copy of *Black Beauty*.
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Do not send stamps.  
Send in your names as fast as you get them, with the money, stating what premium you are working for.  
Begin now.

The Patrons of Indiana very kindly invite the Patrons of Michigan to attend the session of the Indiana State Grange at Columbia City, December 13 and 14.

We call attention to the article on railroads by Maj. W. C. Ransom; one appeared in the last issue and the other is on the first page of this issue. All who are interested in the question discussed will find these articles most profitable, as they are written by a man who knows whereof he is speaking.

The authorities of the Michigan Experiment Station are anxious to circulate their bulletins more widely. These bulletins are documents valuable to the farmer and the only expense necessary is in buying a postal card and sending it to the Secretary of the Agricultural College, with the request written thereon that the bulletins be regularly sent to your address.

Capital Grange held a successful fair at their hall, October 15. The plan originated last year and aims to have a show of vegetables, grains, fruits, flowers, fancy work, art, etc. Premiums are given as at any other fair. Dinner is also served and a social time enjoyed. The idea is also to have those who received first premiums to tell in subsequent meetings "How they did it." Possibly other Granges will find it pleasant and profitable to try this scheme next year.

## BIRD RAPE.

The Michigan College had 13 acres of bird rape on its hands this fall. Instead of plowing it under there were turned on it 126 lambs. In 26 days they had made way with the fodder and had made an average gain of 15 pounds per lamb, or about one-half as much as it is expected they would have made on the fodder rape.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

We are glad to announce a series of articles by Prof. James McBride of the Agricultural College, on Political Economy, to begin in our next issue. These articles will interest all our readers but will be specially instructive to the younger portion. We also expect a shorter series to begin January 15, on dairying contributed by Prof. P. M. Harwood.

We hope that every Grange in Michigan will take up one or both of these series in this way: Have some one read the article at the

meeting, discuss it thoroughly, send in to the *Visitor* any questions you wish answered, and have these read, as they appear. We are sure that Patrons will get great good from the method.

## A NATION'S SORROW.

Bearing the title of no official position, crowned with none of the honors that belong more exclusively to men, yet having the love of a whole nation, Mrs. Harrison passed away. The country mourns with the stricken husband—mourns because this sorrow is the type of a sorrow that comes to many—mourns because of a home made desolate and a sacred union severed—mourns because the heart of a great man is left lonely. When the nation thus speaks of the character of this woman, it honors noble and pure womanhood; when it recalls the perfect home thus made dreary, it honors the hearthstones of the land; when it realizes the happy union thus broken, it reverences the sacred ties of wedlock. Let these deep lessons grow from the sorrow and bereavement.

## COLUMBIAN AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The State Board of Agriculture have decided to issue their next report in the form of a "Columbian" volume. It is designed to contain a history of agriculture in Michigan, together with special articles on the various farm crops, wheat, corn, roots, etc.; ensilage, dairying and cheese making. The different breeds of stock will also have space given them. All these articles will be written by men prominent in their respective lines in Michigan. The farmers' organizations will be treated in the same way. Special crops not much known will be spoken of. Besides these features the various other leading industries of the State will be given each an article. This will make a valuable book and no doubt it will be appreciated by the farmers of the State.

## FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.

The eyes of the western world are turned back along the pages of history to the figure of a brave man, who in defiance of the accepted beliefs of his people and age, and in spite of the almost stupendous foreshadowing of an ocean voyage of unknown extent, nevertheless boldly and confidently set out upon a marvelously grand, and what proved to a completely successful undertaking. More than we have ever done before do we appreciate the event and the man, the memory of which we celebrate. Columbus has always been a sort of myth to the average mind of the American, but now are we coming to realize the work he did. Let us honor his memory as it deserves and learn well the lessons his life teaches us.

The progress of the world since the day of Columbus is remarkable. We have reason to be proud of our part, as a nation, in this advancement. We have reason for some self glorification. And the end is not yet. We are but at the threshold of our prosperity. We but dimly realize that which is to come. Let us celebrate our success in rejoicing and gladness and with hope for the grander future.

## YOUR VOTE.

How are you going to vote at the coming election? Not with what party—we do not mean that so much—but on what principle will you cast your ballot? Do you vote because it is your right, or because it is your privilege, or because it is your duty? Do you vote for the sake of any great moral or political principle? Is your party allegiance given because you actually

believe in the platform and performances of that party, or do you do it because your father was of the same political persuasion? These are home questions, especially to a young man. We fear that the inestimable privilege of possessing a ballot is not recognized by many of our people. Too often also do men fail to see the burden of duty that the privilege brings with it. The solemnity of voting is not always appreciated. In reality the franchise brings with it one of the most sacred of duties that an American can perform, for upon its right use depends the whole structure of our liberty. Your vote *only* counts one? Yes, but it counts *one*, and carries with it the same force as does the ballot of any other man. The most serious menace to our institutions is the decadence of patriotism in the form of not caring to exercise the right of suffrage. Honorable and honest men refrain from voting because they do not care to mingle in politics. They are in a sense committing treason to their country when they thus fail in such a duty.

Young men, cast your vote Nov. 8. Cast it for the men whom you wish to see placed in office. Cast it with the feeling that you are an American citizen. Cast it because it is your duty.

## THE MUGWUMP.

There are various definitions for this species of the genus *homo*. The meaning given the term would depend very largely upon whom fell the responsibility of defining it. The average partisan has no use for a mugwump and would probably scathingly remark the fact if given opportunity. The maligned mugwump himself might plausibly defend his odd title by hinting at the real cause of the said partisan's unkindness.

Like many other classes of people the ranks of the mugwumps are filled with a varied assortment. There are the "soreheads,"—those who failed to secure what seemed to them just recognition for their invaluable services to some political party. Then there are the "cranks,"—men who have become imbued with some one idea, the propulsion of which against the immoralities and abuses of the time would shatter the opposing forces. Then there are the honest, independent men,—men who for conscience sake are willing to undergo the maledictions of their former political friends,—men of whom it can be said, "Their party was not worthy of them."

But whatever of ignominy may attach to the name of mugwump at the present day, we believe there will come a time when it will be honored and respected. When men are willing to see that party fealty is not always the highest virtue; when political parties are compelled to recognize that American citizens are not sheep to be led in flocks at the bidding of political manipulators; when the parties are willing to incorporate more of living, burning, vital principles into their platforms; when honest political heresy is regarded as less a sin than unthinking political orthodoxy,—then will the independent voter, the mugwump, be given his due of respect and credit.

## TO TEACHERS.

We send copies of this issue of the *Grange Visitor* to several thousand of the teachers of Michigan, and to many others who are interested in teaching. We believe that the *Visitor* contains material in each issue which the district school teachers of Michigan ought to read. Every issue discusses economic questions. We have some of the best men in the state

writing for us on these topics. Any one who is teaching needs to know of these questions.

Moreover we shall begin in our next issue a series of articles on Political Economy, written by Prof. Jas. McBride of the Agricultural College. These will be written with a view to interest the teachers, the older pupils, and the young people of the farm generally, in the elements of this subject. They will be written so that all can understand. Questions will be answered through the *Visitor*. We also have the promise of a few articles on some simple experiments in chemistry for the use of teachers.

Then, too, we are offering such premiums as should induce teachers to try to obtain some of them for themselves or their schools. Look over our list and see if you can not, in the next four or five weeks, secure one of our premiums.

Even if you are not a teacher you cannot fail to be interested in the paper, and in our premium offers as well.

The price is low, only 50 cents per year, and if you subscribe now you will get the paper for the rest of this year free.

If you wish to take some other leading paper or magazine look over our clubbing list, which will appear next issue. We can save money for you every time.

Give the *Visitor* a trial, teachers, and we believe you will not regret the small investment.

## MACHINE POLITICS.

In even a higher sense of the term than is usually applied to it, the politics of this country is managed on a "machine" basis. Thorough organization, from top to bottom, is the watchword of the successful politician. It seems necessary thus to perfect an organization, for, other things being equal, it makes the difference between party success or failure. When every voter in the United States is made the object of personal attention by a political party, and pressure of one kind or another is brought to bear upon him for his vote, it means that the party having the most perfect system of doing the work will be most successful at the polls.

But however desirable this plan may be as viewed by political managers, there is no question but that evils follow in its wake. Bribery of voters is rendered much easier, corruption is a short step from shrewdness. And indeed the very fact that there is so systematic an effort made to capture votes affords a temptation to the managers. The legitimate expenses are also largely increased by this system, and from an economic standpoint alone the plan is open to objections.

Then too what good reason is there for bringing national issues into local elections? Assuming that the tariff and the silver question are the leading issues of the present national campaign, what difference does it make in the actual solution of these matters as to what party occupies municipal, county and even State offices? Why should the tariff question decide the political complexion of a common council or of a board of supervisors? What have they to do with the tariff? Are there not local issues upon which the people will divide and should divide rather than to drag in a national issue? What difference does it make as to the fitness of a man to administer the office of sheriff, if he believes in the free coinage of silver or does not? Are the public assured of any better protection to their property because this officer believes in a tariff on wool? And yet our

officials are in nearly all instances elected upon some such basis. Viewed in this light is not the system absurd?

But of course it is easier to find fault than to suggest a remedy. The evil is an acknowledged one, but no reformer has as yet produced a cure. The political system is so strongly established and the prejudices of men are so firmly fixed, that anything short of a complete revolution in sentiment would fail of effectiveness. It is evident, however, that in some way, and to as great an extent as is possible, there should be a divorce between national and local politics. With the exception of members of the legislature there need be no good reason why established party lines should form the basis of nominations for any offices within the State. It may be convenient to thus divide, but there is no reason why it should be necessary to do so. Certainly the county, town, and municipal offices should be placed on a different basis. This evil is more apparent in cities than anywhere else, and already men are studying to avoid the well known effects which are sure to follow continued municipal control by one great political party. And though the rural districts do not suffer so much, the principle is similar and similar remedies must be applied.

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## GENTLEMANLY WOMEN.

Women have been Billingsgate fish women, and plowed with a cow as a yoke fellow, and there was no talk about their "usurping the place of men," writes Mrs. Lyman Abbott in her popular department, "Just Among Ourselves," in the *October Ladies Home Journal*. They were so like the Billingsgate man and the donkey that the world was not stirred to save them from being unsexed. If the "modern maiden," with an inheritance of refinement and education, and with possibilities far beyond those which the gentle maiden of a hundred years ago, trained to stand straight by being strapped to "back boards," and to converse sweetly by practicing "prime" and "prism," and to make rose preserves and fine lace, could by the wildest stretch of imagination conceive—if, I say, this young woman is going to become a swaggering fop, or a bluff boor, she is throwing away her birthright for a mess of garbage. Girls, I beg of you, mothers, I implore you, to keep sacred every gentle grace of womanhood. It is your right. Do not let a false social standard, or a discouraged heart, wrest it from you. If you have leisure, and live in a city, beware how you sink below the manners of a gentleman while you array yourself in the garb of one. The country is quite as much in danger. She may be "loud" in her fashions and in her conduct, and I know of no place where there is more painful exhibition of unwomanliness on the part of young girls than on village streets. A girl who from babyhood is nurtured in the spirit of a noble graciousness, though she live in the humblest cottage, will be a lady always.

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The *VISITOR* is for every farmer, whether he is a Granger or not.

The complete novel in the November number of *Lippincott's Magazine*, "More than Kin," is from the well-known pen of Marion Harland. It is a tale of love, sorrow, and misunderstanding, in which one domestic tragedy narrowly misses bringing in another; but darkness gives way to light at last.

Bro. Thos. Reeve of Capital Grange, whose death occurred recently, was a charter member and one of the most earnest workers of that Grange.



**GET READY FOR THE STATE GRANGE.**

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS— This means something more than going to the State Grange—it means preparation. We know it is necessary to secure some one competent to keep the house, do the chores, care for the children and have an eye to things in general while you are gone. Do not think when you have a new gown, hat, coat, etc., and have attended to all home matters that you are ready, you are only partly ready.

You are to represent the Granges of your county in the State Grange—to stand in their place. Their interest should be your interest, their wants your wants. And for their interests you are expected to legislate, and not only for their interests, but for the interest of every Grange in the State.

There is not a Grange in the State that does not demand the careful consideration, and the undivided attention of every member of the State Grange. What are the needs of your Grange? What has been the heaviest burden you have borne this past year as a Grange? What are you striving for?

All of these needs should be carefully canvassed by you, thoroughly digested in order that you may receive just the help from the State meeting that your Grange demands from you.

We are sure after the requests from Miss Allis in regard to an annual word for the Pomona Granges, you have discussed this matter among your own members and have arrived at some definite understanding as to what you want to say and do about it. After the request made for funds for the building of the Grange Temple at Washington you will be able to say and do as you think is for the best about that also.

Is there something needed in the repeal of State laws that seem unjust, or the enactment of new laws that seems much to be desired? Is there an anxiety for the enforcement of some good laws that are now on our statute books as dead letters? Get ready on all these issues and then be ready to do your part in bringing about the desired results.

Are you all ready on the free delivery of mail question? the justice or injustice of the present mortgage tax law? Are you satisfied with the present plans of caring for our highways? If not, be ready to suggest a better. Are you ready to put in just the best work for the GRANGE VISITOR? Are you ready with suggestions for the good of the order? Ready to tell us just how you have doubled your membership this past year—how you secured that large club for our Grange paper—how you make your Grange so interesting that your members are there early, ready to open at the minute—how you get through with your program so as to close at ten o'clock sharp?

Do not come just to be entertained and have a good time—come full of plans for work—to give good as well as get good, and you will have a good time.

Just another thought: Can you not bring to the State Grange something better than all else that we have suggested? The son and daughter? The State Grange like every subordinate Grange needs young life and energy. It needs the young people, and they need the State Grange. We want to see them and know them, with all of life before them; with hope bright above them and a faith that shines forth bright and clear and a great love for everything that is beautiful, good and true; we need their presence with us. They will go back full of zeal for the work, bearing with them impressions received from some of our noble men and women, that shall strengthen in them the noble precepts of our order.

M. A. MAYO.

**OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF MILK IN FRANCE.**

The French authorities have at last "taken the bull by the horns," in order to calm the anxieties of the public respecting the consumption of milk from undiseased cows. Paris dairymen must henceforth when stocking their sheds, produce a certificate from the official veterinary surgeon in whose district the animal has been purchased, that the milch cow is free from organic disease, and they must also advise the similar functionary in the city,

of the arrival of the purchase. As a further protection all dairy cattle are to be inspected monthly by the government veterinary surgeon, who is also empowered to report on the sanitary condition of housing of the stock.

These measures are not untimely, in presence of the heavy human mortality in the capital from tuberculous affections, of the augmenting employment of milk as a diet, and of the communication of tuberculosis by milk from diseased cows, a fact now placed beyond controversy.

Dr. Smester, of Normandy sends, milk to Paris in a perfect sweet condition, without resorting to any extraneous agents for its conservation save extreme cleanliness. To sterilize the microbes in milk, the Pasteur plan of heating the liquid and then rapidly cooling down, is resorted to. A temperature of 158 to 167 degrees Fah., does not kill the sceptic animalcules; it rather checks the rapidity of their multiplication. Professor Duclaux has shown that even at boiling point, vitality is not conquered in the ferment germs, that an additional 12 degrees is necessary to make sure. Highly heated milk loses none of its nutritive qualities but acquires the cooked flavor that so many dislike. Milk thus treated and placed in vessels that have been steam scalded, will when hermetically sealed, that which prevents watering and skimming, keep for a long time.

**INTELLIGENT EFFORT PROSPERS.**

How often we hear that "the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer." This is a great mistake. If we look about us we will find hundreds of rich persons becoming poor and thousands of the poor becoming rich. Young men growing up are apt at times to be discouraged by hearing so much about the rich of our country monopolizing everything. We who are interested in the welfare of the youth of our land should take great interest in teaching that it is the intelligent man now who is prospering. There is no question but what the intelligent are getting richer and the ignorant getting poorer. The fact is, the day has come when ignorant labor of any kind is a drug on the market, and there has never been a time when intelligent labor has been more in demand. There seems to be no end to the demand for the man who is up in his line of work, who is intelligent, vigorous and prompt. Young men on farms and everywhere will find a sharp demand for their labor if they earnestly seek to become thoroughly intelligent in whatever they undertake. It is the intelligent man today that we need on our farms, in our factories, offices, stores and other places. I was prompted to write the above from overhearing two young men—farmers—talking this matter over. One said there was no chance for the poor man.—STANFORD, in *Country Gentleman*.

**HOLYROOD PALACE.**

Although it is years since I visited this old palace, yet it so fresh in my memory that it seems only yesterday since I rambled through the cloisters and ruined chapel so rich in romance and famous in story.

Holyrood palace is beautifully situated in the old part of Edinburgh, Scotland. It was formerly the residence of the Scottish kings and was erected in the fourteenth century. It is built of large square blocks of gray stone and is quadrangular in form with an open court 94 feet square in the center.

Adjoining the palace is the ruined abbey founded in 1128. On the east side and almost within a stone's throw of the palace are the green slopes of Arthur's Seat standing out against the sky. This is a high mountain, and from its peak one can obtain a complete view of Edinburgh and see the center of the kingdom, the whole forming a sight hardly to be surpassed in Great Britain.

Separated from Arthur's Seat by a deep ravine are Salisbury Craigs rearing their rugged outlines in dewy mists from the meadow lands below. There I once witnessed a review of the Scottish troops, a part of which were stationed on Arthur's Seat, and another on the craigs.

At the front or south side of the palace stands an exquisite fountain, octagonal in form at the base, and

surrounded by a circular basin. The fountain is divided into three stages surmounted by an imperial crown which is upheld by four guardsmen. This crown forms a cistern from which the water flows, and comes gushing out from lion's mouths into the basin below.

Within the palace whose halls once resounded with the mirth of the young and gay all is silent and but a few relics are left to tell of past glories. Here were crowned the kings and queens of Scotland; here James II was married to Mary Guelders, and James III to Margaret of France.

At the east side stands the chapel Royal, once a noble structure, and noble still even in decay. It was within this grand ruin and just beneath the great mullioned window that the beautiful but unfortunate Queen Mary plighted her troth in an evil hour to the foolish and dissipated Darnley. In August, 1561, Queen Mary came from France to take charge of her kingdom: Think of it. Only eighteen, a widow and queen of a nation. She landed on the pier of Leith amid the acclamations of the people, then mounted a white palfrey which was awaiting her and with her maids of honor was escorted by the Scottish troops to the palace. Arriving there she entered the arched doorway, passed through the halls up the winding stairway into the room where she must have gazed upon the hills and mountains that I have seen, and which I have tried to describe to you. How beautiful it must have seemed to her and how merciful, that she could not then look into the dark future that had such terrible things in store for her.

The room that Queen Mary occupied as I remember it, was a large, airy apartment, with windows facing east, south and west. It is a pleasant looking room and not in such a ruinous condition as one would suppose; the ceiling and walls are good. All that remains of the furniture is a round table, a chair and a little low iron bedstead. I cannot tell whether Queen Mary reposed on that or not. There is a piece of blanket, said to be hers, laid on top of the bedspread, about the size of my hand, which looks as if it had been the abode of moths for some time.

On one side of the room is a doorway, but instead of a door being there as in our houses, there is what looked to me like a picket gate about six feet high and made of iron. This opened into a long corridor which communicates with the lower apartments by a private stairway. On the floor and near this gate or iron door are some stains, said to have been made when Rizzio met such a violent death at the hands of Douglass.

Within the walls of the chapel, at the back of the palace, worshipped the nobility of long ago who are now peacefully sleeping beneath the marble flagstones which mark their resting places. These stones are overgrown with moss and the inscriptions upon them can scarcely be deciphered. Among the graves are those of David II, James II and James V, kings who once reigned over auld Scotia.

Holyrood Palace is to me one of the most interesting objects in my native land. AN ALIEN.

**OUR GRAIN EXHIBIT.**

Michigan's Grain Exhibit at Columbian Exposition promises to equal any of the States in the Union, and give credit to the grain growers as they well deserve.

The exhibit is composed of samples from all the counties in the State, gathered together by Mr. Belden, and representatives at fairs and expositions.

They are all shipped to the Michigan Agricultural College, where they are prepared for exhibition, in the shape of from one to two quarts of grain, and 12 ears of each variety of corn, also samples of unthreshed grain in straw.

I have shipped several hundred varieties, growth of 1892, which were exhibited at Detroit Exposition, taking first premium and sweepstakes prize for best and largest exhibit of grain, over other large exhibits.

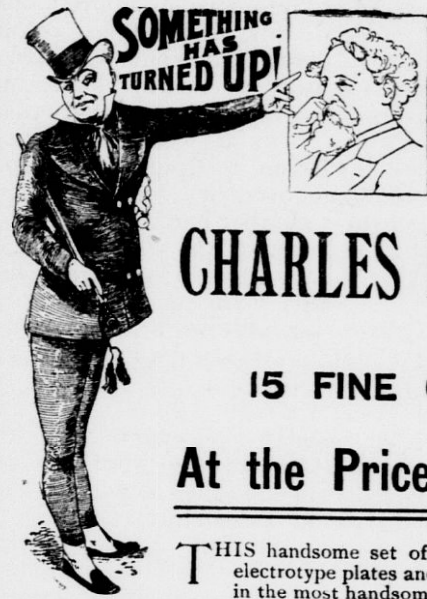
If any of the farmers who can secure or have extra nice samples of grain, and corn in particular, will ship them to the College, where due credit will be given (the College will pay freight charges), they will confer an honor to the State, as well as themselves.

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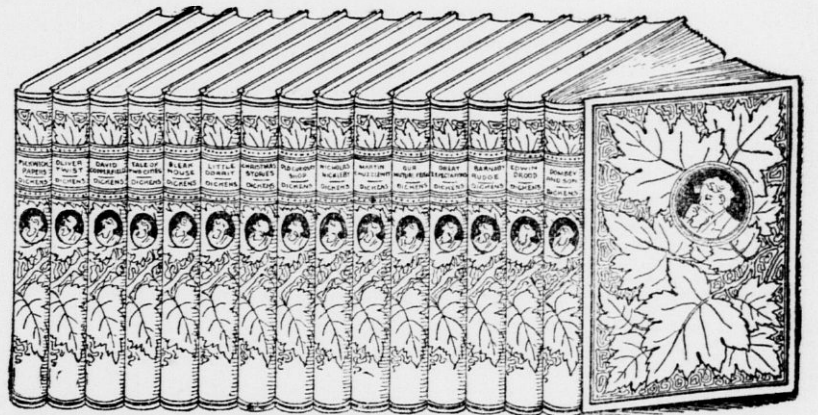
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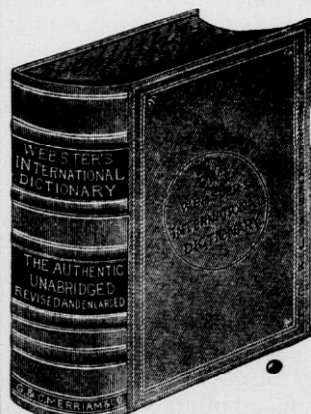
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At 50 cents each, receiver to pay express. If you want either of these sets for your Grange Hall, or your school room, or your library, begin canvassing at once. You will soon secure the needed number. Send for samples of THE VISTOR if you need them.

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THE GRANGE VISITOR, Lansing, Mich.



Ladies' Department.

IN SCHOOL DAYS.

Still sits the school-house by the road  
A ragged bear sunning;  
Around it still the sumachs grow  
And blackberry vines are running.

Within the master's desk is seen,  
Deep-scarred by rape official,  
The warping floor, the battered seats,  
The jack-knife's carved initial.

The charcoal frescoes on the wall;  
Its door's worn sill betraying  
The fact that, creeping slow to school,  
Went storming out to playing.

Long years ago a Winter sun  
Shone over it at setting;  
Lit up its western window panes  
And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls,  
And brown eyes full of grieving,  
Of one who still her steps delayed  
When all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy,  
Her childish favor singled,  
His cap pulled low upon a face,  
Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow  
To right and left, he lingered,  
As restlessly her tiny hands,  
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes, he felt  
The soft hands light caressing,  
And heard the trembling of her voice  
As if a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry, that I spelt the word,  
I hate to go above you,  
Because," the brown eyes lower fell—  
"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a gray-haired man  
That sweet child face is showing,  
Dear girl, the grasses on her grave  
Have forty years been growing.

He lives to learn in life's hard school,  
How few who pass above him  
Lament their triumph and his loss  
Like her—because they love him.

—Boyhood Poem of John G. Whittier.

ONE OF WHITTIER'S LAST POEMS.

[The three-page poem by John G. Whittier, which appears in the November *St. Nicholas* Magazine, commemorates the visit of a party of young girls to the poet's home. It contains the following lines, which have a peculiar significance now that the good Quaker poet has passed away:]

"I would not if I could repeat  
A life which still is good and sweet;  
I keep in awe, as in my prime,  
A not uncheerful step with time,  
And, grateful for all blessings sent,  
I go the common way, content  
To make no new experiment,  
On easy terms with law and fate,  
For what must be I calmly wait,  
And trust the path I cannot see—  
That God is good sufficient me,  
And when at last upon life's play  
The curtain falls, I only pray  
That he may lose itself in truth,  
And age in Heaven's immortal youth,  
And all our loves and longings prove  
The foretaste of divine love!"

GRANGE INSPECTION SERVICE.

Acting under the authority of the officers of our State Grange—we began in September our inspection of Granges. The Patrons may question why so late in the day beginning work that should have received attention earlier in the year? We can explain this we think to your entire satisfaction. It takes about two months after the meeting of the State Grange for the subordinate Granges to get into good running order. Then some time was consumed in perfecting plans and arranging for this inspection service. And as soon as we were ready for work the heavy and long protracted rains of the spring began. When there seemed to be a clearing of skies and a boding of better days, we notified several counties that we were ready to come to visit them and look over their work.

Their reply was invariably the same. "As much as we would like to have you, we do not deem it expedient at present. The protracted rainfall has so delayed the getting in of our crops that we can not feel it wise to now plan a series of meetings in our county." This was the universal excuse, and it was right. The season was rapidly advancing and every moment must be employed as soon as teams and hands could possibly get afield. Then came the haying harvest, and the usual after-harvest picnics. Seeding was soon here after the oat harvest; so now you see why we could not do our field work in the Grange until so late in the year.

Bro. Crosby, our State Lecturer, very kindly planned the canvass for us in Oakland County where we began our campaign. It was such a help too, every stake was properly set, and we had only to follow its lead. Novi was our first stopping place, and Farmington our first Grange. Here we found a hall filled with eager listeners. Among the many friends who kindly greeted us here was Bro. Crosby, Brother and Sister Greene. After a public address the Grange assembled in closed session and we closely inspected their secret work. Here we found a good following of the ritual, a clear understanding of the signs and symbols both by Master and Patrons. That night

we accepted the proffered hospitality of Bro. Greene and wife, and not only rested but most thoroughly enjoyed visiting with these dear friends.

The next morning Sister Greene chartered the horse and carriage to take us on to the next appointment which was Birmingham. We dined with the Master of Birmingham Grange, Bro. Caleb Jackson who, by the way, is a son-in-law of Bro. Greene. Birmingham Grange has a sad record, and we think without a parallel in the State. From a Grange numbering above one hundred, it is now reduced below forty, most of its members having passed away by death. I was informed by one of its members that for five years its charter had not been without its draping of crape for some loved one, and that forty of their number had died.

The heart of the whole Grange seemed almost dead; sadness seemed written upon its walls. Here was Sister Satterley's home. Our "Chloe" as we always knew her in the GRANGE VISITOR. We remembered how she loved the Order, how eagerly she championed its work. Others here were just as loyal as she, and we could but feel that the sweet memories coming up from beneath the grass, grown graves of those that had in their vigor maintained the organization would stimulate those still left to carry on the good work.

Brother Jackson's roof was our shelter for the night, and again in company with Sister Greene we started for Pontiac Grange. We stopped here at another son-in-law of Sister Greene's, Charles Shattuck, Mrs. Greene's daughter being Master of this Grange.

We are sorry to know that this Grange has abandoned holding meetings in a hall but go from house to house. The result has not seemed to be for the best. We held at Mr. Shattuck's a parlor meeting. All the members present seemed determined not to let their Grange die. Here we found Bro. Charles Bartlett and wife, who have so frequently made sweet melody for us at the State Grange by duet and solo. Also Madam Shattuck, who was once a regular contributor to this paper. We were sorry to find both herself and Mr. Shattuck in very poor health.

We did all we could for Pontiac Grange, advising and counseling with them as to the best plan for future work. One thing they there determined upon and that was to rent a hall and have a Grange home.

The next morning we bade good bye to Sister Greene and set our face toward Rochester.

Here a little lad met us, a son of Brother Snook, who in a very manly way took us to his home. We were cordially welcomed by Brother and Sister Snook and family. We spent a pleasant half day here looking over the farm and barns and watching the filling of the silo. In the afternoon we attended a meeting of Rochester Grange. A goodly number were in attendance and we tried to help them in explaining and expounding the principles of the Order. With Bro. Snook as Master, his son John as Secretary and the earnest faithful membership of such men as Van Hoosen, Norton and others we feel assured of the prosperity of this Grange.

The next morning Mrs. Snook took us to the train for Orion. Here we found that the Grange had arranged for a public dinner and lecture and gave us a royal welcome. The venerable Brother Andrus presided at this meeting.

The next day we sat with this Grange in closed session and examined them carefully in their secret work. Here we found a most excellent system of book-keeping—in fact it was correct in every part. We think Bro. Coon has reason to be proud of his books and the Grange reason to be proud of their Secretary.

Our dear friends Mrs. C. K. Carpenter and daughter entertained us over Sunday and on Monday we went to Clarkston, no one being at the depot to meet us, according to instructions, so we took a hack for Brother Holcomb's. Here we found by experience what the fraternity of the Grange is. They knew not of our coming, and did not even know who we were until we had introduced ourselves. But no one could have been kinder or given us a more royal welcome. And as we left again for Clarkston

in the evening they gave us good will and God speed.

We addressed this Grange and inspected it as well as we could in its secret work. This is one of the best regulated, best kept Grange halls it has ever been our good fortune to visit. Bro. Foster is keeper of the books, and his fidelity and faithfulness in all business enterprises speak for him as a worthy keeper of its records. At his home we were taken for rest and entertainment, and the next morning his daughter took both Bro. Foster and ourself to the train, he enroute for the fair at Pontiac and we enroute for home. Thus endeth the first chapter in our experience as Grange inspectors.

Of the necessity of the work we are more than ever persuaded. Some Granges have never received proper instruction in the secret work. Some have worked well for a season and then grown careless and indifferent. Some have the work nearly perfect and vary but little, while others work well.

We would wish here to say that everywhere we were most kindly received. The criticisms we felt it our duty to make; the instructions we felt it necessary to give; the little side lectures we indulged in were all received in such a kindly spirit, without the least ill feeling, that we could but realize it was a more than a common brotherhood that bound us together.

Yours for the work,  
MARY A. MAYO.

COMMITTEES ON WOMAN'S WORK.

DEAR SISTERS—The time of the State Grange meeting is not far in the future, at which time I am expected (and I wish to do it) to prepare my report as chairman of the State committee. It will be very necessary for me to hear from each subordinate committee in the State ere my report can be complete, and I hope you will, through your chairman, report to me at once. Please do not defer writing to me, but let me hear from every committee by the middle of November.

Yours for the work,  
MARY A. MAYO,  
Battle Creek.

GAIL HAMILTON'S GOOD ADVICE.

Gail Hamilton, while one of the most trenchant critics of manners and perhaps a bit of a scold, is nevertheless, a womanly woman, with a noble respect for true womanliness and a fine scorn of everything little and low and mean. Witness, she declares, is a thing which girls cannot afford. Delicacy is a thing which cannot be lost or found. No art can restore the grape its bloom. Familiarity without confidence, without regard, is destructive to all that makes woman exalting and ennobling. It is the first duty of a woman to be a lady. Good breeding is good sense. Bad manners in a woman are immorality. Awkwardness may be ineradicable. Bashfulness is constitutional. Ignorance of etiquette is the result of circumstances. All can be condoned and not banish men and women from the amenities of their kind. But self-possessed, unshrinking and aggressive coarseness of demeanor may be reckoned as a prison offense and certainly merits that mild form of restraint called imprisonment for life. It is a shame for women to be lectured on their manners. It is a bitter shame that they need it. Do not be restrained. Carry yourself so loftily that men will look up to you for reward, not at you in rebuke. The natural sentiment of man toward woman is reverence. He loses a large means of grace when he is obliged to account her a being to be trained in propriety. A man's ideal is not wounded when a woman fails in worldly wisdom; but if in grace, in tact, in sentiment, in delicacy, in kindness she should be found wanting, he receives an inward hurt.

START A CHAUTAUQUA CIRCLE.

This is the Greek year in the reading course of the Chautauqua Circle. A most valuable and charming variety is offered to the members of this world wide organization, and this month should witness the formation of a circle wherever there is none among farmers, and indeed, it would be most pleasant and profitable for every Grange to start a circle. It offers social and literary advantages which will

help make farm life as enjoyable as city life. Resolve to have a circle, and remember "where there is a will, there is a way." The process is very simple. Send to Mr. John M. Hall, Flint, for circulars, consult a few leading spirits and call a meeting, widely announcing it and personally inviting all who are likely to be interested. Work hopefully and persistently and a circle can be started in any place.

OUR SCHOOLS' GREATEST TASK.

The statistics of the United States census bureau show that in eleven states and two territories, in 1890, there were more children between the ages of five and seventeen who were either foreign-born or the children of foreign-born parents than there were native white children of the same age.

In several of these States and territories the disproportion was very great, so that in the public schools an American child of American parentage was almost an oddity.

In the whole of the United States there are nearly five and a half million children between the ages of five and seventeen who were either born in foreign countries or have foreign parents. They are, in fact, more than one-third of all the children in the country between these ages.

Every such foreign child may well be quite as good an "American," as a child whose ancestors came over in the English *Mayflower* or the Dutch *Goede Vrouw*. Indeed, American children of native race are often surpassed in stout "Americanism" by foreign-born children.

Yet the child of foreign-born parents, who is generally without the home associations which go with long residence in the country, has much to learn at school in order to make him a thorough-going American. It is the problem of our schools to assimilate these children to an American standard of life and ideas. The number is enormous, and in any other country of the world the task might be impossible. Fortunately for us, the children of the foreign-born generally enter the doors of our public schools with the best possible disposition to become Americans.—*Youth's Companion*.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

- What am I farming for?
- What constitutes a farmer?
- Neatness and cleanliness around our home.
- Is the cultivation of tobacco beneficial to the farmers of the United States?
- Things most needed to make country life pleasant.
- What crops the past season have proved the most successful?
- Can farmers lessen their hours of labor without detriment to themselves?
- Have secret societies been a benefit to the community?
- What is woman's work in the Grange?
- What is the greatest hindrance to agriculture?
- Proper ventilation of school-houses and homes.
- Does success in life depend more on one's exertions than on circumstances?
- How shall we get the largest returns from our land for our stock?
- Farmers' vacations.
- The farmer's political duty.
- Is it for the interest of tax-payers to reduce the tax on bank deposits?
- Why should young people take an interest in the Grange?
- The great purpose of life and the best way to accomplish it.
- The sunny and shady side of the farmer's life.
- Is the agricultural fair, as generally conducted, a benefit to farmers?
- Domestic duties as compared with fifty years ago.
- Is the agricultural school a better place to educate for practical farming than the farm of a practical farmer?
- The best ways for saving strength and time in doing housework.
- What can legislation do for agriculture?
- Of what do home comforts and attractions consist, and how shall we obtain them?
- Which does the most good, the woman that leaves nothing undone at home, or the one that devotes some time to the cause of humanity?
- The benefits of secret societies?
- The ideal Grange; what is it,

and how can we make ours such an one?

How shall we best interest our Grange?

Our duty to our district schools.  
Ex.

RAM'S HORN TOOTINGS.

Hurry is the handmaid of worry. The devil is afraid of the smile that is born in an honest heart. You can't keep people from wanting water by throwing stones at the pump.

The man who is running for office has no such word in his dictionary as rest.

The main reason why some men have cross wives is because they are surly themselves.

There isn't one man in a dozen who will take the word of a preacher in a horse trade.

How soon you can see the faults in a horse you have traded for after you get home with him.

It never makes an unruly boy feel a bit like repenting to tell him, with a whip in your hand, that he is bad.

As long as prize fighting pays better than preaching, the devil will appear to be having his own way in some sections.

There are some people in the church who would hurt the devil's cause a great deal if they were to leave it.

It is only now and then that the Lord ever succeeds in making much of a Christian out of a stingy man.

NOTICE that all yearly subscribers sent before Jan. 1, '93, will be credited to Jan. 1, '94, thus getting the paper free for the rest of this year.

EXCURSION RATES TO THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

Paw Paw, Mich., Oct. 12, 1892.

Arrangements have been made with the passenger and traffic associations for rates at "one and one-third fare, upon the certificate plan," for all persons attending the 23rd annual session of the National Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, to be held at Concord, N. H., commencing Nov. 16, 1892.

Every person purchasing tickets to the meeting should take the certificates, whether they will be able to use the "one-third ticket" for return passage or not, for it is required that at least 100 such certificates must be presented to the railroad agent at the meeting to enable any of the delegates or members to secure the reduction, and your certificate will help to make up that number.

Observe the following instructions: FIRST—Each person desiring the excursion rate must purchase a first-class ticket (either limited or unlimited) to the place of meeting, for which he shall pay the regular fare, and upon request, the Ticket Agent will issue a printed certificate of purchase of the standard form as shown in this circular.

SECOND—If through tickets cannot be purchased at the starting point, parties will purchase at the nearest point where such through ticket can be obtained, and there purchase through to place of meeting, requesting a certificate from the Ticket Agent at the point where second purchase is made.

THIRD—Tickets for the return journey will be sold, by the Ticket Agent at the place of meeting, at one-third the first-class limited fare, only to those holding certificates signed by the Ticket Agent at the point where the through ticket to place of meeting was purchased, countersigned by signature written in ink by the Secretary or Clerk of the Association, certifying that the holder has been in regular attendance at the meeting, and vided by the Special Agent of the Railway Association requiring the last named supervision.

FOURTH—It is required that a certificate be procured, indicating that full fare has been paid for the going journey and that the purchaser is therefore entitled to the excursion fare returning. It likewise determines the route via which the ticket for return journey will be issued.

FIFTH—Tickets for return journey will be furnished only on certificates procured not more than THREE DAYS before the meeting assembles, nor more than THREE DAYS after the commencement of the meeting, and will be available for continuous passage only; no stop-over privileges being allowed on tickets sold at less than regular unlimited fares. Certificates will not be honored unless presented within THREE DAYS after the adjournment of the meeting. It is understood that Sunday will not be reckoned as a day.

VERY IMPORTANT.

You should be particular to notify every person desiring to secure the excursion rate that the following rule will not be deviated from under any circumstances:

"No refund of fare can be expected because of failure of the parties to obtain certificates."

You will observe from this rule that it will be absolutely necessary for each person to obtain a certificate from the agent where the ticket is purchased to the point where the convention is held, otherwise the purchaser will be unable to obtain the excursion rate returning, and will be obliged to pay full tariff fare in either direction.

J. J. WOODMAN, Sec'y Ex. Committee N. G. P. of H.



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By ALBERT STEGEMAN, Allegan, Mich. THORNTON BARNES, No. 341 North Water St., Philadelphia, Pa.

In writing mention THE GRANGE VISITOR

College and Station.

EXPERIMENTS AT THE COLLEGE.

A Description of the Nature of the Field Experiments Now Conducted at the Michigan Experiment Station.

PERRY G. HOLDEN, ASS'T AGRICULT.

In considering the following brief outline of field experiments which are being conducted on the Farm Department, we wish especially to caution our readers against expecting too much from these experiments, and expecting it at once.

With the varying conditions of weather, seasons, and soils, it is not possible to get reliable results in a single year. Such results are often misleading. For instance, mulching in a dry season will give very different results from mulching in a wet season.

A variety of wheat may do well one year and be a failure the next. Experimentation is always expensive. New and untried methods will prove a failure. The ordinary farmer can not afford to run the risk of an experiment.

He must plant and sow according to the methods which he knows will give sure returns. He can not spend the time nor money to originate new varieties or even try them until he is assured of success.

He must wait five or ten years to find that the apple tree agent's highly recommended variety is a failure. The experiment station carries on experiments that farmers could not, because of the expensive apparatus and training necessary.

They save a great expense. The results are published in bulletins and sent free to 5,000 farmers of the state, who have applied for them. Many more of the farmers get the results through the press.

Again the work is carried on with greater accuracy than would be possible with individual farmers. The station is also a source of information, and is becoming more and more so. Of course we are unable to answer many of the questions asked, but we have access to the results of all the experiment stations and the best authorities on agricultural subjects.

Each year we shall publish the results of that year's experiments on the various subjects mentioned below. As the experiments go on, each bulletin will be cumulative, containing the results of the preceding experiments and the results of experiments at other stations along the same line.

The following is a very brief outline of the field experiments, but space prevents our discussing them in this issue: POTATOES. 1. Deep vs. shallow culture. 2. Deep vs. shallow planting. 3. Hills vs. drills, for early and late potatoes.

SEPARATION OF MILK BY HAND.

Bulletin No. 20 of the Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Experiment Station (State College P. O., Penn.) describes a series of experiments in the separation of butter from milk by means of the hand or "baby" separator.

Following is a summary of the result, with a brief account of the principles upon which the working of the separator depends: The mechanical separation of cream from milk by means of the centrifugal separator has become almost universal in large creameries, the cost of the machines and of the power required to run them being more than offset by the greater yield of butter obtained.

The smaller amount of space required, the saving in ice, and the greater certainty and uniformity of operation. Within a comparatively short time several small separators have been put on the market, which, it is claimed, can be operated by hand and are suitable for the use of the private dairyman.

This station has recently completed some tests of one of the best known of these hand separators, manufactured by the De Laval Separator Company, and called by them the "Baby No. 2." This machine was kindly placed at the station for test by the company. The results of the test are briefly as follows:

- 1. The skim milk contained in most cases, less than 5-100 of one per cent of butter-fat. 2. Out of the total possible amount of butter, but 9-10 of one per cent was lost in the skim milk, and but 3 1/2 per cent in the skim milk, buttermilk and mechanical losses, or, in other words, 96 3/4 per cent of the total raw material (butter-fat) was recovered in the finished butter.

It is estimated that the saving by the use of this machine as compared with the use of cold deep setting will, in one year, with a herd of twenty to twenty-five cows, equal three-fourths the cost of the machine. The machine has proved very satisfactory in the regular work of the station creamery.

PREVENTION OF SMUT IN GRAIN.

The bulletin of the farm department of the Agricultural College on the prevention of smut is valuable in that it will cause farmers to experiment with remedies for its destruction. Hot water is not the only remedy but it is inexpensive and probably quite effective.

A solution of sulphate of copper in which the grain may be soaked 12 hours will greatly discourage smut. But too much must not be expected from the effort to kill the smut spores on the seed grain. It is quite likely that they live in the soil and will propagate and reach the plant from that source. Indeed it is quite evident that corn smut mostly comes from that source as seed corn is usually free from smut.

CORN.

- 1. Selection as a method of improvement. 2. Drills vs. hills. 3. Shallow vs. deep culture. 4. Shallow vs. deep planting. 5. Different numbers of kernels in hills. 6. Different distances apart. 7. Dates sowing. 8. Treatment for smut.

WHEAT AND OATS.

- 1. Varieties—we are growing all the varieties of both wheat and oats which we were able to obtain; Object, a. To test the new varieties and determine the best old varieties. b. To describe the varieties so that they can be recognized. At present the same varieties are known under several names in many cases. 2. Selection and crossing to improve wheat and oats. 3. Hot water treatment to destroy smut. 4. Best time to harvest for yield and germination. Most promising varieties of grasses. Rotation and fertilizers experiments. New crops, such as flax, rape, soja bean, prickly comfrey, peppermint and other forage crops. TESTING OF new implements and farm machinery.

The Atlantic ocean will sail on a level with the ocean for 12 3/4 miles, at the end of which they will be raised by three locks to the level of the lake. They will sail along the San Juan river and the lake on the lake level to a point within three and one-half miles of the Pacific ocean. Here they will be lowered by the locks to the level of the Pacific ocean.

The committee says the cost, including the payment of interest during the progress of the work, will be less than \$100,000,000, and the time required for the completion of the work is within five years. The climate of Nicaragua is healthy, and out of 1,600 northern men employed in constructing a railroad through a swamp only two died during a period of four months. Of 200 northern engineers and skilled mechanics who have worked for the canal company for three years not one has died from a disease incident to the country. By the Nicaragua canal the distance saved is shown by this table:

Table with 3 columns: Between, Miles present route, via, Miles via Nicaragua Canal. Rows include N. Y. and San Fran., N. Y. and Hong Kong, N. Y. and Melbourne, L'pool and San Fran., N. O. and San Fran.

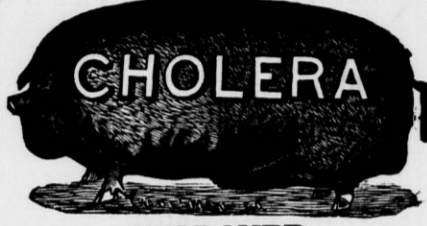
The wheat crop of the Pacific coast in 1891 was over 1,800,000 tons and eighty per cent of the wheat was exported by sailing vessels and a large proportion of it passed around the Horn. The Nicaragua Canal by shortening the route to Atlantic ports would not only save the producer cost of freight but the revenue of the canal at \$2 per ton toll would be nearly \$3,000,000 on wheat alone.

It is shown that there are 500,000,000 thousand feet of merchantable timber in Washington and Oregon to the value of which over \$2 per thousand feet would be added by cheap water transportation via the Nicaragua Canal. The gross addition to the value would amount to the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000, even at this low estimate of \$2 additional. The fruit industry of California would quadruple in two years from the opening of the canal for business and fast refrigerator steamers would deliver fruit from California to New York in ten days, to Liverpool in fourteen days, and to New Orleans in eight days.

The mountains of the Pacific coast are rich in lead, copper, silver and gold, while the plateaux and valleys afford a cereal belt with a soil more durable and more favorable seasons for seeding and harvesting than any part of the world, and the committee thinks the completion of the Nicaragua canal is only needed to develop that country to production of gigantic proportions and double the population of the Pacific coast in a few years. The cotton growing sections of the gulf states have undergone a depression, and the committee believes that nothing could be of greater immediate advantage than the canal in relieving that depression, and making a market for American cotton in Japan, China and Corea, where already the people are beginning to manufacture cotton goods by machinery. Japan imported over 7,000,000 pounds of American cotton in 1891, most of which was shipped from New Orleans to New York and then by rail to Vancouver and steamship to Japan.

The committee says it is no longer a question whether the canal will be built or not. The only question is as to who shall build it, and who shall control it when built? It says it has been informed that European syndicates have already made overtures to the canal company, but the committee believes the United States cannot afford by carelessness, hesitation or neglect to permit an enterprise of such magnitude and of such far reaching advantage to pass under the control of any foreign company. "It therefore behooves us," the address concludes, "as a nation conscious of the power we wield and of the greater influence we may exert upon the destinies of this continent, to perform the duties without delay which we deny other nations the privilege of assuming, and to adopt now the best means of securing the early completion of this work, whose advantages we are willing to share with the world but whose control should never be allowed to pass out of our hands."

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Yours truly, A. D. BELL. In writing mention THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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July 3, '92.—Central Standard Time.

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

Table with 5 columns: GOING SOUTH, No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, No. 8. Rows include Mackinaw City, Lv., Petoskey, Traverse City, Cadillac, Grand Rapids, Ar., Kalamazoo, Ar., Fort Wayne, Ar., Richmond, Cincinnati, Ar.

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Notices of Meetings.

ST. JOSEPH POMONA. St. Joseph County Pomona No. 4, will meet with Centerville Grange November 3. All 4th degree members are requested to be present. MRS. H. COOK, Sec.



NEWS NOTES.

MICHIGAN. Liquor dealers organized at Saginaw. State Baptist convention was held in Benton Harbor. Gen Partridge of Bay City is dead. Severe fire in Muskegon. Wm. Boone of Blissfield, aged nearly 100 years, died recently. Severe storms on the lakes. A bust of Ex-Gov. Bagley has been placed in the capitol.

NATIONAL.

A brother of Garza has been captured. He refuses to divulge his brother's whereabouts. Boats on Chautauqua lake were burned. 1,800,000 acres in Montana opened to settlement. The Miner law was declared constitutional by the U. S. supreme court. Telephonic communication between New York and Chicago was a success. Splendid Columbian celebrations all over the country. Mrs. Harrison died October 25. Seven persons killed in an accident on the Reading road. Homestead non-union men again attacked. Milwaukee was visited by a \$7,000,000 fire. Women's Christian Temperance union meet in Denver.

FOREIGN.

The new German military bill makes a two years army enlistment instead of three. Wages of cotton operatives in Lancashire reduced. It is stated that in Russia alone there have been 160,000 cases of cholera and 77,000 deaths from the disease. Queen Victoria will spend the winter months in Italy. British trade is unsatisfactory. A revolt threatened in Hayti. Impressive ceremonies in honor of Luther occurred at Wittenberg.

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THE PRACTICAL POLITICIAN.

By the ordinary citizen of the educated class, the practical politician is thought to be a man who, though sometimes perhaps having good intentions, is nevertheless led by selfish motives, in the main, to do selfish, corrupt, and dishonest deeds. In his own eyes the practical politician of the higher grade is a patriotic citizen working for the good of a party upon the success of which depends the welfare of the country. He feels in many cases that he is driven to acts which to him are unpleasant; which are, perhaps, on the whole unfortunate for the country, but which, under the circumstances, are still a stern necessity. To be sure, among the "workers" will be found many who care neither for country nor party, nor even for leader, though that is rare; but in the higher ranks the proportion of the consciously dishonest, although possibly larger than that of the same class among merchants or lawyers, is still small. Most of our office-holders in the higher legislative and executive positions are at bottom as honest, hard-working, and self-sacrificing as men of other classes. The "submerged tenth" have dragged the reputations of their fellow-politicians lower than truth would permit us to declare their characters to be. These differences of opinion with reference to the character of the practical politician come largely from lack of knowledge on the part of the public as to the circumstances in which the politician is placed, and as to the pressure that is brought to bear upon him, as well as from ignorance of the amount of excellent self-sacrificing work that he really does. \* \* \* When the people really see things as they are, know what ought to be done, and demand that action be taken, the politician will be ready and prompt to act. The politician can

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not act until he feels that public opinion is with him; his business, in fact, and in justice too in the main, is not to guide public opinion, to follow it. He may help to create and guide public opinion, but that duty is equally incumbent upon lawyers, preachers, teachers, and all good and intelligent citizens. We need to distinguish in this regard the reformers, and even the statesman, from the politician. It is the business of the politician, and the business is a worthy one, to care for the interests of his party, and thereby, as it appears to him, for the interests of the state; and his party interests cannot be cared for unless he follows public opinion. To the politician also, "the public" means, not merely the educated or the good citizens, but all citizens who have votes. If, then, we expect the politician to change his methods of action, we must in some way bring it about that by the change more votes will be gained to the party in power than will be lost.

A politician knows very well that he does many things that are condemned by the most enlightened consciences; he does many things that to himself are disagreeable, and that trouble even his well-trained conscience; but, as has been said, to him these acts are necessary, and he does them as other good people do necessary but unpleasant tasks. When he can be made to see that it will be better, not for himself personally, but for the success of the party—which, let me repeat, to him means the good of the country,—to change the methods of conducting elections, nobody will be more ready to change than he. Indeed, as vote-buying is in reality a very unpleasant business for many of our most influential politicians,—so much so that many of them, while directing it, will never themselves take any part in it,—no one will work more actively to make this practice unnecessary than will they, if it can be clearly shown that a change to a better system of carrying elections is practicable.—From "Money in Practical Politics," in the October Century.

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2. What was the greatest event of his life?
3. What great celebration is about to take place in America commemorating that event?

WE PAY FOR ANSWERS, READ CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING. The first person sending us correct answers to all of the above questions we will send to the World's Fair at Chicago any time after it opens next May, and pay all expenses for ten days. This includes railway and sleeping-car fare both ways, hotel bills, and admission ticket to the Fair every day, for ten days. It makes no difference on what part of the continent you live; we will as readily send the winner from Texas or California as from Cook County, Illinois. To the second and third persons sending correct answers a genuine Elgin or Waltham gold filled watch; value, \$20.00. For the next ten, a gentleman's silver watch or ladies' chatelaine silver watch, each valued at \$10.00. For the twenty-fifth, a solid gold ring; value, \$10.00. For every twenty-fifth correct answer thereafter, a beautiful, padded seal volume of Longfellow's Poems; value, \$3.00 each. For the ninety-ninth, a complete set of Chambers' Encyclopedia, 10 vols. calf. For the middle correct answer a genuine diamond ring, with solid gold setting; value, \$100.00. For the five immediately before, and the five immediately after the middle, each a complete set of Dickens' works, 15 vols., bound in cloth.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. CONSOLATION PRIZES. Any person failing to secure any of the above prizes will have a chance to get one of the following Consolation Prizes. For the last correct answer we will give the same prize as the first, viz: A free trip for ten days to the World's Fair at any time after it opens, with all expenses paid from start to finish. For the next ten, a genuine Elgin or Waltham solid gold filled watch; value, \$50.00. For the third, a beautiful, solid gold pin, with Moonstone setting, suitable for lady or gentleman; value, \$20.00. For each of the next fifty, an elegant cloth-bound volume of Bryant's Poems, gilt edges, side and back; value, \$1.50 each. For the ninety-ninth from the last, Webster's International Dictionary, sheep; value, \$12.00.

EVERY PERSON GETS A PRIZE. We are wholesale book dealers, and to every person answering the questions correctly, or incorrectly, we will give a certificate entitling them to buy any and all books, music, periodicals, and art supplies, at wholesale prices, and a copy of our mammoth catalogue, with everything marked in plain figures at wholesale rates, and further, any person answering the questions correctly or incorrectly, will receive a copy of the COLUMBUS MEMORIAL, a large volume, 12x15 inches, and an indispensable household necessity at this time.

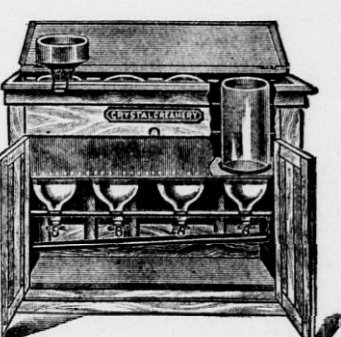
CONDITIONS. There are no conditions to this contest other than that every person competing must enclose one dollar with their answers, for a year's subscription to the MID-CONTINENT MAGAZINE, the greatest and most popular family literary magazine for the money, published in the world. You are sure to get the value of your dollar alone in the magazine. When writing you must state in what paper you first saw this advertisement.

REMEMBER That you get your Columbus Memorial and your certificate and book catalogue by return mail, and as this competition closes the 31st day of December next the other prizes will then immediately be awarded by the committee appointed for the purpose, and at once forwarded to the proper persons.

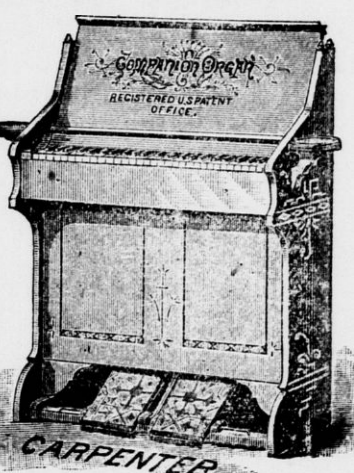
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