

THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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WHOLE No. 34.

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YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
will Expire with No.

THE GRANGE VISITOR,

Is Published on the First and Fifteenth of every Month
AT FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM,
Invariably in Advance.

J. T. COBB, — — — — — Manager.
To whom all communications should be addressed, at Schoolcraft, Mich.
Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft

RATES OF ADVERTISING:
Acceptable advertisements inserted at the rate of \$2.00 per square, for each insertion.
A Liberal discount will be made on standing advertisements of three months or more.

For Grange Supplies kept by the Secretary, see "LIST OF SUPPLIES" on eighth page.

Officers Michigan State Grange.

M.—J. J. WOODMAN, — — — Paw Paw.
O.—P. W. ADAMS, — — — Tecumseh.
L.—C. L. WHITNEY, — — — Muskegon.
S.—H. FLEMING, — — — Pontiac.
A. S.—W. H. MATTISON, — — — Ionia.
C.—SALMON STEEL, Bear Lake, Manistee Co.
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SEC.—J. T. COBB, — — — — —
G. K.—A. N. WOODRUFF, — — — Watervliet.
CERES.—MRS. C. L. WHITNEY, — — — Muskegon.
POMONA.—MRS. W. T. ADAMS, Grand Rapids.
FLORA.—MRS. J. J. WOODMAN, Paw Paw.
L. A. S.—MRS. W. H. MATTISON, Ionia.

Executive Committee.

F. M. HOLLOWAY, Chairman, — Hillsdale.
J. WEBSTER CHILDS, — — — Ypsilanti.
GEO. W. WOODWARD, Shelby, Oceana Co.
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J. J. WOODMAN, J. T. COBB, — — — Ex. Officio.

State Business Agent.

J. H. GARDNER, Centreville, St. Joseph Co.

General Deputy.

C. L. WHITNEY, — — — Muskegon.

Special Lecturers.

Thos. F. Moore,.....Adrian,.....Lenawee Co
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L. B. BROWN,.....Rawsonville,.....Washtenaw Co
Andrew Campbell,.....Ypsilanti,.....
Mrs. Salmon Steele,.....Bear Lake,.....Manistee Co

Under existing regulations we are required to send a copy free to the Master of each Subordinate Grange. We shall also send a copy free to all Secretary's who send us ten or more names of subscribers for one year, with pay for the same.

We cannot longer furnish it free to those who do not work for it. We must have something for something.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—We have been receiving, of late, more Postage Stamps in payment for dues for supplies and subscriptions to VISITOR than we like. As scrip has been displaced by silver, we can not very well object to receiving some stamps as change; but we object to the sending of stamps for amounts of \$1.00 and upwards, for there is no necessity, and therefore no excuse for it, as dollar bills can be got as easily as stamps. After the first of February we shall return to the sender stamps when sent in excess of 99 cents in any one remittance.

Exec'v Com. Department.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

Report of Executive Committee at Annual Session of 1877.

To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Executive Committee would respectfully submit the following report:

We organized Dec. 15th, 1876, by the election of J. Webster Childs as Chairman. Our first business was to examine carefully every resolution or suggestion emanating from the State Grange then in session, by which our future action might be so moulded, as to carry out the wishes of the Order, as expressed by its representatives, as fully as the finances of the Treasury would warrant. We found urgent calls upon the State Grange, by petitions from many of the newer portions of the State, for special aid, by lectures and instruction, in building up the Order in their several localities. These calls were endorsed by the State Grange, and your Committee instructed to act in the premises.

In view of the limited resources of the Treasury, and our experience of the expensiveness of the system of general Deputies, we could go no further than to appoint and call into the field, a number of able and intelligent deputy Lecturers, so located in different parts of the State, as to make them easily available from any given point, and their employment attended with less expense to the parties calling them, as we found it was an impossibility for the State Grange Treasury to assume the expense.—These appointments made by us; we are happy to know, gave very general satisfaction; and that by their earnest labors, and many strong and impressive appeals they have aided very materially in strengthening and building up the Order in various portions of the State. Indeed no one general Lecturer could perhaps have canvassed the field as they have done, or given the research of thought, and argument presented by this force, with such lasting effect. To each individually, and to them collectively your Committee tender thanks, for their ready response to the call and for the ability with which they have discharged the duties of the position.

In accordance with action also taken by the State Grange, petitions upon the following subjects were sent to the people through the Subordinate Granges, viz:

One covering the abuses in extortionate fees in the foreclosure of mortgages.

One making it usurious to accept more than ten per cent interest.

One asking for provisions to be made whereby ladies might be admitted to the State Agricultural College.

One relative to the taxation of mort-

gages, and one requesting legislation regulating the weight of a bushel of apples.

These various petitions were signed by thousands of the tax payers and sons of toil of the State, and returned to their representatives in the State legislature. Of these several matters only one—the last in the list, and that of the least importance in the number, received favorable consideration at their hands.

At this first meeting your Committee took into careful consideration the wool interests of the State; seeking to devise measures whereby producers in the Order might be protected from the insatiate grasp of middlemen, who in the past had held almost undisputed control over this product.—Warned as our people had been, in the past to avoid the maelstrom of manufactories, which had swallowed up the hard earnings of so many of our farmers, we could not advise them to seek relief in working their wool. To recommend an assorting wool Depot for the State, was, in the view of your Committee, surrounded with difficulties that could not be overcome, such as the amount of capital, confidence and large business sufficient to make it a success.

Our conclusions were a recommendation to the Order throughout the State to mass their wool, as far as practicable, by County or Subordinate Granges, and to hold the same until such time as the manufacturers should call for it. Fortunately our advice worked no detriment to any one.—The manufacturers instead of letting middlemen and speculators gather the wool, and dictate to them the price, as in the past, came forward, early in the season, and offered what was nearly an approximate value of the raw, to the manufactured products. Thus the past year was bridged over—the future must be provided for.

Another important measure before us at the time, was the State Agency.

Our arrangements with that officer contemplated that he would be principally confined to making contracts with wholesale dealers and manufacturers, and the wants of the Order supplied through them on the requisitions of the Subordinate Granges at wholesale prices, adding transportation.

We found these dealers generally friendly to the Order, and ready to extend every facility to us, which they would grant to retailers. But the nature of the requisitions sent by Subordinate Granges embraced so many things foreign to their lines of trade, that it was impossible for them to fill the bills without going on the market and purchasing at retail prices, or disappointing the Grange, which course would partially defeat the principles of co-operation, and give dissatisfaction to the Grange so ordering. This state of facts led the agent to take the responsibility of making purchases on a scale sufficiently large to ensure the lowest figures, and so varied in his stock as to meet the

wants of any Grange. To do this, involved a capital of \$6,000, which he had furnished for nearly a year without any return for its use. To continue to do so longer would be doing an injustice to himself.

We therefore agreed to place in his hands a loan of \$2,500, State Grange money, as soon as available, and to pay him interest at the rate of eight per cent. on \$3000, until said \$2500 was so placed, and after that on \$500. For the year now closed this interest amounts to \$90.

Another element in our deliberations at this time was the ever recurring "Plaster Question." Our contract with Messrs. Day & Taylor had another year to run. But the surroundings and outside influence showed strong indications of their being prevented from fulfilling to us, by the sale of the property upon which the plaster mill was situated under foreclosure of mortgage. At the urgent request of many leading and influential members of the Order through the State, your Committee were impressed with the importance of putting an end to this question, and placing it beyond the reach of all combinations, and rings in the future. We accordingly proposed to form a "Joint Stock Company" composed of members of the Order—and buy the property, and control it through the Executive Committee of the State Grange. This proposition necessarily led to the postponement of immediate action, to ascertain from the holder of the mortgage, living east, if she would, on certain payments being made, release that part on which the Plaster Property was located. And if so, Messrs. Cobb & Holloway were appointed a Sub-Committee to have articles of Association prepared to submit to the Committee at their meeting March 14th, 1877.—On the reassembling of the Committee we found through the agent of the mortgagee of the premises, that amicable arrangements could be made. And if necessary, time could be given us on a part payment. This last proposition we did not ask, neither would we have accepted it. After receiving several propositions from the different plaster interests of Grand Rapids, we became satisfied that none would give satisfaction, or settle the question permanently. We therefore proceeded to organize upon paper, a "Joint Stock Company" for the manufacture of Plaster, and appointed Bros. Cobb, Holloway & Luce, a Sub-Committee to prepare the necessary papers and submit them to the Subordinate Granges for subscriptions from their members to the stock. These papers were sent to every Grange in the State, about the 1st of May last, with instructions and request that they be returned to the Secretary of the State Grange, by the 1st of June following:

On the 14th of June, the Sub-Committee met at Coldwater, and by comparing notes found that there was not sufficient subscriptions to stock to

warrant proceeding with the enterprise.

We can give no explanation of this failure. The plans were liberal—the price reasonable, and the product a universal necessity. In this decision of yours, you but postponed the day of reckoning. True we have bridged the chasm for a couple of years, but time rolls rapidly, and what will be the situation of this matter two years hence none can tell. But we can tell you, that it is, and is to be, a trial of strength between monopoly, backed by capital, on the one hand, and justice backed by good desires, and honest intentions on the other.—Which state of facts will imperatively demand that, as we have in the past, so in the future, we stand together, and by our friends. If such is our course, it needs not a prophet's vision to foresee what will be the result in the end, a triumph of the right. As we have said to you, we have but temporarily bridged the difficulty—*hoping and expecting*, that when the time of the contract now made, shall expire, our noble Order will be prepared to grapple with, and master the difficulties as they shall then appear. On the 11th of Sept. last, your Committee met in Grand Rapids, to take further action in regard to this Plaster Question—we met all the parties there interested in its manufacture, and received propositions from each. Of these propositions we made choice of the one from Messrs. Day & Taylor, of Grandville, as being most satisfactory. With them we entered into contract to furnish to our Order, aboard the cars, Plaster of first quality, for the period of two years, as above referred to, at two dollars per ton. Leaving the matter of trackage and rates of freight to be adjusted by the parties ordering, and the lines of road used.

At this price there should be no complaint, neither should there be any holding back from a free use of the article. Orders are to be made through the Secretary of the State Grange as usual. And Subordinate Granges in making up their orders can embrace neighbors who do not belong to the Grange.

At this meeting Bros. Cobb & Jeffers were appointed a Committee to prepare for the meeting of the State Grange. Bros. Holloway & Luce to examine the books and accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer, and State Agent, and we herewith make their report to us of these several investigations, a part of this, our report to you.

REPORT OF SUB. COMMITTEE.

To the Executive Committee of the State Grange. The undersigned members of your Board, appointed Sept. 12th, 1877, as a Committee to examine the books and accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer and State Agent, for the purpose of correcting errors should any be found, and preparing the said accounts for the annual balancing, would submit the following report:

We met at Secretary Cobb's office in Schoolcraft, Nov. 25th. We found every facility and help for careful investigation of the year's work. The books of that office are so systematized, that it is difficult for errors to escape the attention of careful accountants. From these and other vouchers, we summarize the following statement:

Am't in Treasury, Dec. 1st, 1876,.....	\$4911 67
For Fees and Dues to Dec. 1st, 1877,.....	6738 46
For Fees from County Grange Masters,.....	18 00
For Supplies sold,.....	392 22
For Subscriptions to VISITOR,.....	748 00
For Advertising in the same,.....	153 30
For Interest rec'd from Day & Taylor,.....	116 38

Total,.....\$13078 03

CONTRA.

Vouchers for expenses of State Grange, 1876,.....	\$2,394 65
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Vouchers for Fees and Dues to Nat. Grange,.....	1207 14
Vouchers for expenses of Ex. Com., '77,.....	662 42
Vouchers for audits at last session, part by Grange, and part by Ex. Com., all being for years 1875 and 1876,.....	953 97
Vouchers for expenses in Plaster acct's.....	231 34
Vouchers for Stationery, for Lecturer, St. Agt. and Ch'n Ex. Com.,.....	18 00
Vouchers for Salary of Master, 1877,.....	40 00
Vouchers for Traveling incidental expenses of Master's office,.....	110 01
Vouchers for Salary of Secretary, 1877,.....	1000 00
Vouchers for expenses of Secretary's office, Postage, \$204 78; Stationery, \$23 76; Rent, \$30 00; Traveling expenses, \$9 82; Exchange, \$3 90; Freight and Drayage, \$2 78; Total,.....	272 03
Vouchers for Salary of Treasurer,.....	100 00
Vouchers for expense of Publishing VISITOR,.....	660 41
Vouchers for Supply Bills, Stationery and Express,.....	367 08
Vouchers for advances to State Agent Gardner,.....	2500 00
Total,.....	\$11206 70

Bal. in Treasurer's hands, Dec. 1, '77,.....	\$1871 33
Examining the Books of State Treasurer Brown, we find he had in the Treasury, Dec. 1st, 1876, the sum of,.....	\$1601 50
Also the individual and joint note of the Ex. Committee for,.....	3310 17
Which last amount said Com. were using for the benefit of Messrs. Day & Taylor, in the Plaster interest, making the sum total of,.....	4911 67
We further find that he has received to the Secretary to the amount of,.....	11206 70
This includes the value of Ex. Com. note, which had been paid with the earned interest thereon, making the acknowledgments of the year ending Nov. 30th, 1877,.....	13078 03
We find he has paid orders to the am't of,.....	11206 70
Leaving a Bal. in the Treasury, Nov. 30th, 1877,.....	1871 33
Passing to the account of State Agent Gardner, we find a Bal. in his hands from 1876 of,.....	85 45
We have advanced him the past year to be accounted for,.....	2500 00
This makes a total of,.....	\$2585 45
From which we deduct his per diem, Traveling and incidental expenses and interest,.....	945 19
Leaving in his hands to be returned to the Treasury, the sum of,.....	1640 26
Which with the am't in Treasury, Nov. 30th, 1877 as before stated of,.....	1871 33
Makes a total of,.....	\$3511 59
All of which is respectfully submitted.	

Signed by F. M. HOLLOWAY, C. G. LUCE, Committee.

And now in conclusion, your Committee would respectfully offer the following suggestions for the consideration of the Grange:

1st. That article 8 of the By-Laws of this Grange be so amended as to read as follows:

"The Executive Committee of this Grange shall, from and after 1878 consist of three members, to which shall be added the Master and Secretary as Ex. officio members.

The members of the Ex. Committee shall hold their office for three years, except as hereinafter provided.

The first election of said Committee, shall be at the session in Dec., 1878, at which time one shall be elected for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and one annually thereafter."

Your Committee are of the opinion that the above change would be for the good of the Order, in that it would curtail the annual expense of said Committee nearly one-half. And by thus lengthening the term of office, would give, after the first year, practical experience of its duties, and bring to the Board as great efficiency as the present arrangement.

2d. We call your attention to the workings of the State Agency as an arm of the Order, that it will be very difficult to do without, and one that is surrounded with more difficulties and perplexities than all other workings of the Order combined. We have undertaken to comply with instructions by a former State Grange, in making arrangements for selling the products of the farm, and in buying our supplies from first hands, with but one profit. For this purpose we appointed one of the best

business men of our Order in the State, to take charge of this work at a very low salary and traveling expenses; requiring him to make contracts for both buying and selling.

The last object was easily secured, for most products, with good commission houses east and west. With these arrangements we hear of no dissatisfaction so far as the facilities extend.

But the first, as heretofore stated, has been the source of much difficulty and great expense to the Grange treasury.

The difficulties grow out of a want of confidence, or judgement in the Brotherhood—each believing he can do on a small scale without experience, what practical experience may do with greater facilities.

The delusions are fostered and fed by a home element without the gates, leaving but a minority of the Order that avail themselves of the practical principles of co-operation. We have shown the fallacy of expecting the State Agency to furnish goods *entirely* at wholesale prices.

We find further quite a per cent of the Order are being supplied by co-operative associations of their own.

With these explanations we come to enquire if it would not be for the good of the Order to make the State Agency, if longer continued, self-supporting, instead of being a tax upon the treasury?

This tax for the fractional year 1876 amounted to the sum of \$714.55, for '77, the sum of \$945.19, making a total in a little less than two years of \$1659.74. And the same being taken from the order at large, for the benefit of a minority of the members. Those who from inability, through poverty or isolation from facilities, to avail themselves of the benefits of the State Agency, and those who provide for themselves through their own organization, contributing equally with those who have received the benefits in the payment of this tax. Continued as it is, it will only be a question of time, when it will be the means of bankrupting the treasury. In your united councils and wisdom, you may provide a way of escape from the perplexities of the situation.

3d. One other source of anxiety to your Committee, is the future of the GRANGE VISITOR—a bantling, of wee proportions, which has been tenderly nursed and cared for the last three years by Bros. Cobb and Woodman. It has become so hale and hearty that it toddles its rounds to your doors once a month regularly. It is still a "Tom Thumb" but has in the last year managed to lay by \$240.89.—This is not enough to get it a new dress, so that it can enlarge its corporosity, or make its visits semi-monthly. Patrons what will you do with it? All of which is respectfully submitted

J. WEBSTER CHILDS,
C. G. LUCE,
F. M. HOLLOWAY,
GEO. W. WOODARD,
SAMUEL LANGDON,
S. E. JEFFERS,
W. DIVINE, *Ex. Com.*

LANSING, Dec. 12th, 1877.

CHEESE as an animal food may with advantage be substituted for butchers' meat, at the current prices. There are good and substantial reasons for regarding cheese as a wholesome and valuable food, and it is worthy of even a more liberal consumption than it receives. English people probably consume more cheese than any other nation on the globe, or in the proportion of ten pounds yearly to each inhabitant. In the United States the consumption is only about half that quantity

Our Department.

In the enlarged VISITOR, I notice with pleasure that the Executive Committee are to have one entire department devoted to them and their contributions. Under this arrangement one of the Committee hastens to present his first contribution to the columns of our department. As Bro. Cobb is, or has heretofore been, extremely modest about setting forth the merits of the VISITOR as a whole, I design to occupy the space allotted me in this number in elaborating and publishing some of the benefits to be derived by the readers of the VISITOR from a perusal of this one department alone. Saying nothing about the Ladies' Department, the Master's and Secretary's Department and the great variety of miscellaneous matter that will from time to time appear in its enlarged columns. The Executive Committee is distributed all over the State. The north, south, east, and west are all, and about equally, represented. In starting an enterprise of this kind the writer of this desires it to be distinctly understood that he does not regard excessive modesty as one of the virtues to be observed. Hence it is the purpose here and now to claim for this Department *all* that the ability, perseverance and faithfulness of the Committee will justify. But, kind reader, look at the following list of names, and you will only require one moment's reflection to convince even the most skeptical that no Patron will be justified in withholding his 50 cent subscription for the VISITOR for more than one day. In this department will be found during the year contributions from the careful, methodical and systematic Holloway. He has made the most careful experiments in the use of plaster of any man of my acquaintance in the State. It is hoped that he will add to the usefulness of this department by giving his experiments and results to its readers. He is also in possession of some important facts in regard to the modus operandi of conducting a junior State Fair, or at least a mammoth county collection of good and fat things of the land.

Then the enthusiastic J. Webster Childs will contribute to our department. Although a childless Childs, yet no man of our acquaintance has a nobler or more just appreciation of the wants of the young than he. His contributions must and will be interesting to old and young. It requires no draft upon the imagination to say that thousands have heard him talk with delight, and now other thousands will be equally pleased with his articles in these columns. Then it is expected that the practical Luce will contribute to the department something of "what he knows about farming" or perhaps some of his pet hobbies in regard to the necessities of an increased knowledge on the part of the great mass of farmers and farmers, wives and children. In old heathen times I believe that the planet Mars was regarded as the God of War, but our Mars is the personification of peace, hospitality, and good will. It is expected that he will contribute articles upon the true hospitality of the American farmer's home. And how to entertain a large company with pleasure to the guests and love from the host and hostess. His experience in life has eminently fitted him for the work.

For the really heavy work of the department we have a Divine. From our worthy brother from Montcalm County the reader may look for something good. From his official connection with one of the penal and reformatory institutions of the State he is

in position to write the cause of the downfall of the young, and how to remedy it. The history of a very few of the young men confined in the House of Correction at Ionia, might be worth more as a warning to the parents of one burgh than the entire cost of publishing the VISITOR for a year.

Then from Oceana County it is expected that the steady going, genial Woodard will give us news of the north. He can, and doubtless will, tell of the troubles and trials, as well as the pleasures of converting the forests into improved and lovely homes. One other thing he could tell, and that is how to catch wild pigeons by the car-load. If he can not, no one else need try.

And last but not least, it is expected that Bro. Satterlee will perform the most arduous duties of all. It is expected of him to write up for the department all that the other six neglect or forget to write. He has a broad, open field in which to work. There will be enough to tax his skill to the utmost; but he is young and strong, and we believe competent for the task set before him.

Readers of the VISITOR: so much for the contribution to this one department. It requires no great amount of courtesy or imagination to say that they can all write fifty cents worth for the next twelve months. We are not in the habit of placing a very high estimate upon our services; yet we do confidently believe we can do better than that if we all try to do our best.

If we do all that, it is worth more than fifty cents in clear profit.

The VISITOR should go to the family of every Patron in the State. Will you take it? Now is the time to subscribe. Begin with the year. Remember, Patrons, it is your paper—directed to your interests. Supported by you or not at all.

We will close this, as we began, by saying, read over the list of contributors to the Department of the Executive Committee, and I believe you cannot avoid subscribing for the paper. ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

Resolutions on Patent Rights.

The following preamble and resolution was presented and adopted by the Michigan State Grange at its late session:

WHEREAS, The owners of certain patent rights take advantage of technical legal rights to levy a species of black mail, whereby great wrong and hardships are inflicted upon innocent parties; and

WHEREAS, A bill is now pending in Congress to prohibit and prevent the wrongs complained of; therefore

Resolved, That we, the Patrons of Michigan, in State Grange assembled do most earnestly request our members of Congress to use all honorable means in their power to secure the passage of the following bill:

Be it enacted, etc., That no person who shall purchase in the usual course of business for his own use and not for sale or barter to another, any implement, tool, machine, or device, covered by a patent right, not knowing such implement, tool, machine, or device so purchased, to be an infringement of such patent, shall be liable to any action for damages by reason of purchase or use of any such implement, tool, machine, or device covered by any patent.

It is not generally known that there is an extensive salt lake on the top of the Tehachapi Mountain in California, about six miles southwest of the point where the Southern Pacific Railroad crosses the mountains. The lake is somewhat difficult of access, but salt is gathered from the bottom of the lake, where it lies in layers from one to six inches thick, and shipped to San Francisco.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, PAW PAW

Installation of Officers.

I am requested to "explain the following rule in the digest, and define who may install officers, in Subordinate and Pomona Granges."

"Any member of a State Grange, or Fifth Degree member, is competent to install the officers of a Subordinate or County Grange."

Masters of Subordinate Granges, are members of the State Grange, by virtue of their office, although they may not have been elected to be "voting members." All "Past Masters are honorary members of the State Grange" Therefore,

Any Master or Past Master of a Subordinate Grange, "or Fifth Degree member, is competent to install the officers of a Subordinate Grange."

County Granges

As it is contrary to the theory of our Order to authorize a Fourth Degree member to perform duties in a higher degree; and as the government of Pomona Granges is regulated by the State Granges, subject to the laws of the National Grange, the following will stand as the Rule for this State, until further ordered.

Any Master or Past Master of a County or District Grange, or voting member or officer of a State Grange who has taken the fifth degree, and is a member of a Pomona Grange in good standing, may install the officers of a County or District Grange.

Special Deputies.

It will be seen, by referring to the By-Laws of the State Grange, that counties having five or more subordinate Granges, are entitled to a Special Deputy, to be appointed by the Master and Secretary of the State Grange, upon the recommendation of the Masters of five Subordinate Granges in the county. Two or three counties may organize into a District, and have a Special Deputy for the District.

It is made the duty of such Deputies to "organize and instruct Granges and put them in good working order," also to "visit existing Granges, and install officers;" and advise and encourage weak Granges, settle difficulties, and perform such other services as may be required by the Master of the State Grange.

The good of the Order demands that a good, active Deputy be appointed in each county or district; and that without delay. Send in the applications at once, and the appointments will be made.

General Deputy for Northern Michigan.

The State Grange at its Fourth Annual Session, authorized the appointment of a General Deputy for the Northern Peninsula of Michigan; and upon the proper application. H. A. Danville, of Manistee County, was appointed for all the counties lying north of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, and Bay. This district is still entitled to a General Deputy, and Patrons within that district are requested to recommend their best man for the position.

Annual Word.

Granges entitled to the Annual Word, that do not receive it from the delegate who attended the State Grange, can obtain it from the Mas-

ter of the State Grange, by sending an order for the same, under seal, and signed by the Master and Secretary of the Grange.

To Whom it May Concern.

Having kept standing at the head of our Department for nearly three years, a request that all correspondents give the number of the Grange to which they belonged, and having called attention to the matter frequently; we now wish to give notice that with the increased business as signed us by the Ex. Com., we cannot spend time looking up the number when it is not given; our books are so kept that frequently we must know the number before we can either reply, or look up a matter of business referred to.

Hereafter, we shall keep a Heading Standing "To Correspondents," under which we respectfully suggest that all who do not get expected answers to enquiries look for information. J. T. C.

Meetings.

We had the pleasure of meeting the officers and members of Arcadia Grange No 21, located in the village of Kalamazoo, on Friday, the 11th inst. A public installation of officers took place in the evening, a large and appreciative audience being present. Bro. R. E. James was again installed Master, and we regret that we have not the names of his associates in office to present. Every thing was done that could be done to add to the pleasure and profit of the meeting, and the earnestness and marked attention of all, showed that the Grange interest in Kalamazoo is of more than ordinary quality. With all this Grange has to contend with in location—desires, personal interests, &c., it numbers 91 prompt members, ready to do and not be out done.

When we are told that the towns can not have good Granges in them, we say we don't believe the statement. But think that a little Arcadia backbone, exercised in some other localities would not only revive the Granges, but largely advanced their interests. Arcadia Grange could not run itself, neither can any other Grange, but the united action of officers and members of any Grange wherever located, will be crowned with success.

Kent County Grange meets on the 16th and 17th inst. Western District Pomona Grange No. 19, holds its annual meeting at Berlin, on the 24th, 25th and 26th of this month. Prof. M. Miles, of Lansing, is expected to be present, and lecture on "Stock Breeding," with illustrations. We shall give timely announcements of all County or District Grange meetings from this column. C. L. W.

KALAMAZOO, Jan. 12th, 1878.

The State Series of Institutes, under the charge of the State Board of Agriculture, occur as follows: Marshall, Calhoun County, Jan. 14 and 15; Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Jan. 16 and 17; Tecumseh, Lenawee County, Jan. 21 and 22; St. John's, Clinton County, Jan. 24 and 25; Saginaw, Jan. 28 and 29; Climax, Kalamazoo County, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

From the programmes, we judge these Institutes will be of exceeding interest and great profit to the farmers, and there should be at each place a full attendance of farmers.

At Climax, in this county, Professors Kedzie, Fairchild, Cook, and Carpenter from our Agricultural College will participate; we also notice the names of Messrs. Cobb, Neasmith, Miller, the fish man—H. Dale Adams, Hodgman, and others, all men of prominence, whose papers will add much to the interest of the occasion. We need hardly say that this is a fine opportunity for the farmers of our county. We urge a general attendance. FARMER.

The grange is a school—the farmer's college—where he is to be educated in his rights and responsibilities. In the grange and through it's agency and influence, the farmer learns the correct principles of government. He learns the value of sound political principles, policies and measures of government. The great questions of political economy he there learns. As he gathers his grass, he garners a crop of ideas; it's the best paying crop a farmer can grow—a crop of brains. But he learns more than this in the grange and through grange influences. I am pretty certain there is this much, at least, in the farmer or grange movement. There is used of less legislation. We want more money less law. The western farmers are in earnest. They mean business. They do not preach the doctrines of the commune. None are more interested in the supremacy of the law, and a wise and equitable adjustment of the relations of labor and capital. They do not belong to a class that is visionary and ideal. None are more intensely practical. The western farmer is non-partisan, but will always identify himself with that organization which makes the strongest appeal to his sturdy sense of justice, and is the most practical in its legislation. It is measures and governmental policies that he desires, rather than sentiment and theory.—Patron of Husbandry.

FODDER CORN.—A correspondent says he can raise more feed off a given amount of ground when sown to corn fodder than of any other crop; sows with a grain drill set to sow two bushels per acre, drilling in the same as wheat. The ground must be in good order, for if dry and cloddy the drill will not cover the corn. By drilling the seeds thick no weeds can grow in the rows and the stalks will grow tall and slender, more palatable to the cattle. The corn is cut with a reaper prepared for reaping grain, the reel taken off, but if the reel can be used all the better. To prevent the corn from falling the wrong way a man with a rake walks behind and pulls it back. If not dry enough to tie, stack it the same as you would other corn, tying the top with straw, being careful that the stacks stand firm, and it will keep well in the open fields, and can be drawn in the barn as wanted. The better way, after it is thoroughly cured, is to haul it under cover, or stack it under cover, or stack it where it can be got at without losing time or wasting it.

THE RASPBERRY.—Why families are without this delicious and easily raised fruit is a mystery. It also promises to be increasingly profitable to those who are in good markets, as from its softness, those at a distance cannot compete. Pears and grapes may be sent from California, but not raspberries. I wish I could make my patrons believe that fall is the best time to set out raspberries, currents, etc. If set out in autumn, top-dressed with a shovelful of old manure, and the earth mounded up around them on the approach of freezing weather, as directed in my manual, I do not think any would be lost. With me they do nearly twice as well as if planted in the spring. I will except the black-cap varieties only, which do better in the spring.—E. P. Roe.

"WELL, farmer you told us your woods was a good place for hunting; now we've tramped through it for three hours and found no game." "Just so. Well, I suppose, as a general thing, the less game there is the more hunting you have."

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, JAN. 15, 1876

Secretary's Department.

J. T. COBB, SCHOOLCRAFT.

Officers and members of Subordinate Granges in corresponding with this office, will please always give the Number of their Grange.

BLANKS.

Blanks that are sent free from this office on application are:

- Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Subordinate Granges.
- Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Pomona Granges.
- Blank application for organizing Pomona Granges.
- Blank applications for Membership in Pomona Granges.
- Blank Bonds of Secretary and Treasurer.
- Blank Election Reports of Sub. Granges.
- Blank Certificates of Election to County Convention.
- Blank Certificates of Representatives elected to the State Grange.
- Blanks for Consolidation of Granges.
- Blank Application for Certificate of Dimitt.
- Blank Plaster Orders.
- Blank Certificate of Incorporation.

Plaster.

Our State Agent has called the attention of the readers of the VISITOR to the value of Plaster as a fertilizer, and to the excellent quality of that made by Day & Taylor, and made the point that its cheapness at our contract price should induce our people to use it very freely. Bro. Gardner so well knows what he is talking about, and has so nearly said all that need be said, that I am relieved from occupying much space in this number on this much mooted subject.

I barely referred to this subject in the last VISITOR, for it seemed to me so much had been said that every Patron in the State understood the subject in all its magnitude and bearings, and yet this is not true, for when away from home and the matter is called up, I always find that many persons have but a general knowledge of the subject. All have not remembered that the old Plaster Association held this article at \$4.00 per ton and "could not afford to sell it a cent less." Nor do all remember that the Plaster Manufacturers of the Grand River Valley went back on a definite arrangement made when assembled in their corporate capacity in open session with your Secretary, and refused to stand by an agreement that had all the binding conditions of a contract except it was not reduced to writing, officially signed and sealed. Since that time some years have elapsed, and we think we have learned something about the cost of Plaster and the general management of the business, and we are prepared to express positive opinions upon this subject. Many, perhaps, have forgotten that the Association returned orders unfilled, because the money did not accompany the order, and that, after having, as stated by its President, "made this concession to the Grangers that we will treat them just as well as we treat anybody." Put this and that together and the check that is behind the utterance must be made of plaster hardened by a patent process.

In the face of the statement that plaster could not be sold for less than \$4.00 per ton, the price went to \$2.00 as soon as the Grange Plaster Mill of Day & Taylor was prepared to fill orders at the contract price of \$3.00 per ton. With the expectation that the resolutions of the Granges were wind, these several manufacturers prepared for the market for the winter and spring sales of 1876 their usual amount of plaster, about one-

half of which was sold and the rest carried over, to be offered during the winter and spring of 1877 for \$2.00 per ton—and dear at that.

In a tour of inspection last Spring, I found at one of the warehouses just out of Grand Rapids four faithful laborers loading a car, or rather, preparing to load a car with plaster. To the ordinary implements used were added crow bars and picks, and a hand roller of three feet diameter for the purpose of pulverizing. The business I learned, on inquiry, was progressing at the rate of about 1½ cars per day. The real condition of the plaster will be best understood when I say that in solidity it was just like a barrel of leached ashes that had been waiting all summer for the farmer to transfer to the compost heap or elsewhere.

And this when pulverized was the cheap plaster sold last winter and spring to Mich. farmers, and I am glad to be able to say but little of it to Mich. Grangers. I don't know but that sort of plaster is worth to the farmer the old "Plaster Association price, \$4.00 per ton." If any body thinks so, that don't belong to the Grange, has no obligations to regard, and supposes that a low price always means cheap goods, then we would refer him to an advertisement found on our last page from F. Godfrey & Bro., which we received since we commenced writing this article. Now we don't say that F. Godfrey & Bro's \$1.50 plaster is of the sort described, but we do know that the man who expects to get as good plaster from any of these old firms that have had a large amount of land plaster on hand for two years, and have all this time been making and marketing stucco, made of the choicest part of the rock that they mined, and ground the rest with the debris and foreign matter from the stucco rock, must have a large amount of faith and be quite indifferent to results. The man who buys that re-ground plaster (re-ground by the patent process which we have just described, or any other) it is safe to presume sows plaster because his father did, and will sow no more or less to the acre, and never asked himself or his neighbor what effect, if any, had been produced by its use.

Our confidence in our Bro. Patrons is so strong, and that confidence is grounded on the observation and experience of two years' familiar acquaintance with these Mich. Grangers, that we do not hesitate to advertise for our friends F. Godfrey & Bro., as we have the space for the advertisement, and better, as the principles of our Order demand, it was paid for before delivery. With this brief notice of our new "ad." (which, after mature consideration, we have concluded not to present a bill for,) we will only add: Send forward to me as rapidly as possible, your orders for the plaster of Day & Taylor, at \$2.00 per ton, and you will get new, pure, dry, fresh ground plaster that you can sow with confidence, and when sowing feel that in the purchase and use you have kept in view your pecuniary interest as an American farmer, maintained your self respect and consistency as a man, and been faithful to your obligation as a Patron.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Charles A. Brown, what No.? Mrs. D., your communication, on account of our absence from home, is set down for the next No.; also, that of J. C. B., G. R., and Mrs. C. L. Schurtz.

—The Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange will commence at 2 P. M. on the 15th inst., in the City of Milwaukee.

White Pigeon Grange.

We do not find time to visit neighboring Granges as we should like to, and as we have from time to time given renewed promises that we would. But the occasion of the installation of the officers of White Pigeon Grange, presented such a temptation to enjoyment that we shut our eyes to every other consideration—turned our back on office work, and with Past Master Bro. S. F. Brown, on the afternoon of the 2d inst., took a train for White Pigeon, 24 miles distant. We were cordially greeted and entertained by Bro. and Sister Shurtz, at their house until the hour of meeting. We found on arriving at the Hall a goodly number of members were on hand early, and every indication of the good time coming. Before opening, we were introduced to one and another of the Brothers and Sisters, with the remark that they were from such a neighboring Grange. We soon come to understand though there might be dead Granges, somewhere in Mich., there were live Granges and live Grangers in the South half of St. Jo. Co. The Grange was called to order by Bro. Shurtz its Master at a seasonable hour indicating the business habits of its officers, and pointing to one of the causes of its success.

And now comes the only hard spot seen or felt (by me) in carrying out the programme of the evening. Without that salutary fear of consequences for violation of good faith which should be present in the heart of every good Granger, the Master called on me for a speech. I say violation of good faith for knowing that as a visitor, I was exposed to a call of this kind, I had taken the precaution while yet at the house of Bro. Shurtz, to privately make a little arrangement with him for a consideration on my part to him then and there paid, that I was not to be called on for a speech.

As the circumstances would hardly allow me to go back on Bro. Shurtz, at that critical moment, I had to respond to the call, and I will only add that I was more sorry than any one else that I could not give those good people a good speech. But as Bro. Brown as every Patron in the State knows is a talking man, and had come loaded, the Grange and their visiting friends got a good speech soon after I set down. The officers were installed by Bro. Brown, assisted by Bro. Yancy, Master of Centerville Grange, in a creditable manner, and apparently to the entire satisfaction of all present.

The good Sisters, when the proper time arrived brought forward from the supply Department of their abundance and we were all generously fed. By this time I had become so interested in the intelligent young ladies present, all good Sisters in the Order that I made no count of how many baskets full of provisions were left, but am sure there were several. And now about the make up of this Grange. The feature that struck me most favorable was the large number of young people who apparently have joined, and belong for the purpose of recreation and improvement—laudable objects and worthy. This Grange as a whole and its members as individuals are reaping rich rewards for their investment—and they all seem to know and feel it. Upon this subject I have more to say when I have more time.

The music—well perhaps as I am not a critic I should withhold an opinion, but I certainly have a right to say that it was good enough for me. Of the ladies themselves, I take great pleasure in saying they were the ripe fruits of the theory of our Order—cultured, refined daughters of

farmers, not afraid or ashamed to be known as Patrons, but with enlightened and broad views, and comprehending the value of our organization to the wives and daughters of the farmers of our land, they are earnest in their praise of the Grange. After the feast, a half-dozen or more toasts were offered and appropriately responded to by different Brothers who had been assigned to this duty. At a late hour the company separated, every one feeling that the time had been well spent, and our love for the Order strengthened. Early rising enabled us to reach home for breakfast before seven, and we were on duty again at the usual hour.

State Convention of Superintendents of the Poor.

It may not be amiss to say that as Secretary of the Mich. State Association of Superintendents of the Poor. I left office work in good hands, and was on hand at the opening of the Session on the evening of the 8th inst. in the City of Grand Rapids. The Sessions were continued until the evening of the 11th, and by the unanimous verdict of the members and visitors was pronounced a success. I give this not only as a matter of news which we now feel at liberty to publish in our Grange paper, but the matters brought before the Convention were such as affect the tax payer, and need to be better understood.—Some most valuable papers were read and discussed—one by Mrs. S. L. Withey, of Grand Rapids, is of that practical kind, that we mean to give space for it soon in the VISITOR.

MASTERS and Secretaries please do not forget the petitions sent you for signatures—have them signed as fully and rapidly as possible, not confining your efforts to the Order, but get others to sign it. The object is in the interest of agriculture, and that being the case should receive the support of every farmer. By an oversight there is no date. Please write above the name of place where signed before sending to your member of Congress.

A SWINDLE.—Now it is a fence swindle. The plan is to offer to give the farmer fifty rods of new fence, if he will put it along the road, where it will be seen, and serve as an advertisement, and the farmer is to have the sole agency for the town, and to be paid a handsome commission upon all orders he may take. The farmer accepts the proposal, and the agent tells him that it will take two coils of wire, for which the farmer willingly signs an order. In a few days a stranger comes along to collect a bill for wire fencing, and wishes immediate payment. The farmer explains that he put up the fence as an advertisement and was to have it free. He is told that he was to have fifty rods free, but he has ordered outright one hundred and fifty rods, and must pay for this at four cents a foot. If the farmer is timid, he settles with him, somehow, perhaps gives his note for \$200 to pay for the wire he did not order. When he comes to examine his wire, he finds that he has two hundred rods of wire, which only make fifty rods of fence, four spans high, and in due time learns that his note has been discounted at the bank in the nearest town.

It should be an object with all to raise the yield of their harvests to the highest possible maximum. No man should rest content with raising the poorest crops or the meanest animals in the town. The times in which we live demand that our farms should produce more and at less cost. Agriculture is the greatest of our American interests. It should be the pride and aim of each individual farmer to contribute his best efforts towards making the nation prosperous, thereby insuring comfort and happiness to each and all of its citizens.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKEGON.

COUNTRY LIFE.

The farmer is up, while the stars are shining,
And the moon is drifting thro' the forest trees,
And the fleecy clouds, with their snow-white
linings,
Are silently shifting, in the morning breeze.

And is out to the barn, where the patient cattle
Are meekly eyeing the well filled mows
With an earnest purpose, in life's great battle;
He sings, as he milks his graded cows.

Then down the lane, through tangled daisies,
He follows the herd from the stable door,
While a busy life, with its varied phases,
And lengthened shadows, go on before.

And he leans on the bars like an ardent lover,
And his mind is lost in a dreamy spell,
Then leaving his pets in the scented clover
He turns at the sound of the breakfast bell.

For a busy day is just before him;
And work is crowding at the Riverside farm—
Though no shadow of debt is hovering o'er him,
He shares the labors with a willing hand.

All day in the field, he drives the mower,
Or follows the raker, as the case may be
'Till the sun goes down, and the day is o'er,
And the children are shouting in their merry
glee.

Or he follows the team down the long, long
furrow
That he turns, with almost a tender care;
While the ground-squirrel chirps near his winter
burrow,
With a garnered harvest and food to spare.

Through the purple haze of the Indian Summer
And the broken clouds, the warm sun glints.
While the young fowler seeks the gray-grouse
dinner,

Where the forest flames with Autumnal tints.
Then, in the barn, alternate flails are pounding
With measured beat, since the gray morning
broke

And through the naked forest, there comes
resounding
The echo of the far off woodman's stroke.

We love the country scenes, where all is quiet,
And deem them worthiest, of all that we have
found,

Far from the city's home, and mad fashions' riot,
Will dwell in peace with everything around.
Grand Rapids, Jan., 1878. H. H. ROGERS.

Pomona Granges.

County or District Granges, of which there are now twenty, which number will soon be increased, have an important part in the work of our Order. They have already done much good and may prove themselves indispensable, if they will, to the higher good and continued life of the Fraternity.

They are not organized merely for show, but for hard, earnest work, not nominally but in reality.

They were not for the soft handed, kid-gloved people who chance to be within the gates, to be ornamental in a higher degree or place, but for the earnest husbandmen and matrons who have learned and practiced the lessons of our Ritual and made them a part of life's action, who have made or helped to make the Subordinate Grange successful, and are eminently qualified to enter a higher and broader field of action, where, associated with others of like capabilities and preparation, they may perform nobler deeds and develop new fruits; advancing not only their own interests, but the interests of all who till the soil.

Like any organization or person the Pomona Grange may be of little use, for it is, and will be, just what its members make it. It will not run itself. Its prosperity will depend upon the purposes and executive zeal of its members and officers. H. O. P. E.

must be inscribed upon every banner, seen in every effort and be the watchword of every Patron who would successfully tread this exalted court, and possess the Horn of Plenty from whence to dispense rich treasures.

"Success in a good cause is gained only by perseverance" is the lesson to be learned by and taught to those who would be truly Patrons of our ancient Art.

Earnest attention, careful observation, patient reflection, and cool, calm judgment should characterize the action of every one who aspires to enter Pomona's Courts.

The field of the Pomona Grange is a broad one. Every farmer, and every farmer's family, and every farmer's interest in its jurisdiction, County or District, is the province of this organization's activity.

In general: It should awaken the minds of farmers to their own interests, duties, responsibilities, and needs of co-operation to secure their higher welfare. To this end this Grange should provide for meetings, lectures, discussions, &c., in various accessible places at such times as will be most available.

Specially: It should revive and advance the work within the Gates, assisting the weak, directing the strong, correcting error, supporting truth, and diffusing light. Visiting the delinquent, cheering the weary, counseling the doubtful, encouraging the active, the Pomona Grange should be a present help in need, a living example to every Subordinate Grange in its field of action.

It should be a fountain of the nectar of truth, a reservoir of the wine of experience, a depository of the elixir of success, from which every Patron, however humble, may drink deeply.

Directly, the Pomona Grange calls out and acts upon the masses, sowing broadcast its seed. It inspires by its presence, convinces by its activity, encourages by its numbers, and reassures by its counsels all who doubt the utility or perpetuity of the Order. It provides managers for the system of co-operation between local organizations, giving the weak the reins of power, arousing the indifferent to activity and converting enthusiasm and idle power into grand elements of success.

Indirectly this organization reaches and may reach, through its membership, every Subordinate Grange, the home and family of every member of our Fraternity, and influence the thoughts, words, and actions not only of members but of those still without the Order's fond embrace.

I have not over-drawn this picture but might pursue the subject in many directions yet untouched by my pen, but enough for this time, and if time permits I will write for another number upon the "duties of our members toward and in the Pomona Grange, and the rewards of such action."

Request of our Pomona Grange Officers.

Co-operation should be practiced among members, also between Subordinate Granges; why not by the County or District Granges? At the meeting of Pomona Grange officers at Lansing, Dec. 13th, it was agreed to try to co-operate, at least so far as not to have our meetings conflict. All were invited to correspond with the Lecturer of the State Grange, acting Secretary of the Pomona Grange meeting, and to this end I wish each Pomona, County or District Grange, by its Master, Secretary or Lecturer, or all these, to assist me to bring about the desired end.

Please send me by mail, a full list of officers for 1878, with post-office address of the Master, Lecturer and Secretary of your Grange. Give also the times and as far as you can, places of quarterly meetings, and programme of such meetings; also of intermediate meetings. Add to this any items of general interest, especially your success in awakening dormant or delinquent Granges.

"What are your Lecturers doing?" is what I wish to know.

I further request that each and every officer shall see that at least one member takes and reads the VISITOR, and shall also constitute a committee of one to see that every officer and member of the Pomona Grange takes, and reads and writes for the VISITOR. Hoping to hear from you all soon, I am, fraternally,
C. L. W., Lecturer.

Your "Visitor."

For two years or more have we been asked for the enlargement of this paper, and often censured because it did not enlarge. We have repeatedly stated that when the interest in the Order was such that the members would support a larger and more frequently issued paper, it would come. Some have wanted a weekly, but in wisdom the State Grange through its Executive Committee have given a Semi-monthly. Shall this be supported; shall we show that we need a weekly by our supporting this, filling its columns and putting it into the hands of every Patron in the State? These are the questions for those who have so often asked for enlargement, to answer, not by saying "It is a good paper," but by taking and reading and writing for it, and by getting every member of your Grange and to at least take and read it. Every family in the Order should have and read the VISITOR. Now, Brothers and Sisters, the State Grange, the Ex. Committee and State Grange Officers have done their part, and will continue to do their work upon "YOUR VISITOR," and it remains to be seen whether you will make it truly your VISITOR coming to you and your family twice each month.

In my sojourn among the Granges of the State and their members, I have invariably found active, enterprising members, subscribers and readers of the VISITOR, and prosperous Granges sending through their Secretary, or some one else large lists of subscribers to the VISITOR, and on the contrary where the paper was not taken or read even when gratuitously sent, dormant, lifeless Granges were delinquent, with listless members and few at that.

There is not a Grange in the State too poor to take the VISITOR, even the poorest members can have it, for four families can unite, and each pay 12 cents, (or 1 cent a month) and thus get the paper, 24 copies, 192 pages, 768 columns, or book pages of reading matter for 12 cents. Have you a slow member, one who questions the value of the Order, in your Grange; find him "your VISITOR," and ask him to read it and watch the effect. Have a copy or file of the VISITOR on the table in the reach of all at each meeting of the Grange, and encourage members to look it over and see if some will not take it even without asking. Every Grange has one copy sent to it free. It is directed to the Master, but belongs to the Grange, every member in good standing and officer owns it. Now as the Master has many cares upon his mind, and the Secretary is usually very busy, I would suggest that the Lecturer be the custodian of the VISITOR. On

his desk it will then be found for reference, every number filed in order, at every meeting, and he has one source at least from which to draw for the Grange's instruction. The Lecturer might soon get a large list of subscribers to forward, and often send in items of general interest for publication. Bro. Lecturers shall we not thus magnify our office in doing good.

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, - CENTREVILLE.

At the request of the Executive Committee I am still acting as State Agent as heretofore, and am ready to fill orders for anything which I have on hand or can buy at reasonable prices. I don't expect to get them for less than dealers pay for the same articles; but I furnish them without adding the retailers' profits.

I have now a number of wagons, harvesters, mowing machines, hay rakes, drills, cultivators, plows, harvesters, and corn shellers; all first-class tools, which will be sold at cost and some of them below. Also a stock of boots, shoes, and rubber goods of nearly all kinds in use. A full line of groceries on hand or ordered direct to the purchaser, if taken in the original package.

I have now a quantity of refined sugars of different grades, at market prices, by the barrel. I also will order sugars from New Orleans, when money is sent with orders to me for one thousand pounds or more, to be shipped to one person, at through rate of freight. They have already advanced a half cent per pound and will probably go higher soon, as raw sugars are advancing in all the principal markets.

It is a good time now to buy a stock of teas and coffees, as a tax may be laid on them during the present session of Congress, which, if done, will cause an advance, and they can be had now very cheap.

I have domestic dry goods of most kinds, cotton and woolen: consisting of cashmeres, tweeds, jeans, denims, and flannels; yarns, cotton and woolen, carpet warps, woolen socks of best quality, gloves and mittens in any quantity to suit buyers. Buffalo robes and horse blankets, heavy and light, and a variety of lap robes of different qualities.

Carriages of any description, and harness of any kind furnished direct from the manufacturer on all cash orders, at wholesale prices for first-class goods; money to accompany orders.

I have a contract for the Home Sewing Machine, so that I can furnish a machine with box cover, drop leaves and drawers, all nicely finished, for twenty-five dollars, as good a machine as there is made—gives universal satisfaction and will please any lady. The same machine is also furnished on a plain table for \$18, with a self-threading shuttle and self-setting needle.

Also a contract for wooden pumps, at one-half the usual price. A good porcelain lined pump, 20 feet long, for \$6 on car here or at Three Rivers. All wanting pumps send on your orders and they will be shipped at once.—Any length furnished that may be wanted at a proportionate price.

The following is from a letter of the Master of the Wisconsin State Grange as published in the Grange Bulletin:

"My impression is that our farmers will not hold to the Grange for the social and educational features alone. My experience has confirmed me in this opinion. Some of the strongest Granges in my State attempted to live upon the social and educational, but have failed

entirely, while others that were weakly have grown strong in using the Agency, or in co-operation. I have set it down as a fact, and act accordingly, that co-operation is the word."

If this is true in Wisconsin it is not also true in Michigan? Some of the largest and most enthusiastic Granges in this county who did nothing in selling and buying together have failed and ceased to exist.

PLASTER.

Masters and Secretaries call the attention of your members at every meeting to their needs for plaster until every brother gives in his order; now is the time to make up your orders and forward them at once to Secretary Cobb, so that he may know how much is wanted. It is best to have them sent on as soon as possible so that it can be got on hand in readiness for use. I hope that every one will order liberally that use it, as it is the cheapest fertilizer that can be applied to sandy or gravelly soils. Our Executive Committee have made a contract with Day & Taylor to furnish it on car at their mill for \$2 per ton, which is less than it has ever been sold for before in Michigan for a fresh and pure plaster.

I have examined their rock and found it solid and pure; unmixed with slate or shale. No stucco is made at their mill which requires the best rock and is used for that purpose at the other mills. They have at present a large quantity quarried and piled under sheds to dry; and they disposed last spring of all they made, so what they have now on hand is fresh and in the best of order.

Ground plaster which has laid over summer and fall absorbs moisture from the air, gives off a part of its strength, which it never regains, even if reground, and is of little value.

Don't buy only the best, for the poor is too costly for any farmer to use at a dollar a ton. I used a car load on my farm last spring from Day & Taylor, and I believe that it was the best that I ever had. Apply it early in the spring, for it is more beneficial than if used late. Sow it broadcast on your corn land before plowing, it is better than putting it on the corn after it comes up. Don't be afraid of putting on too much, there is no danger. An observing and thorough farmer here says that he would not do without it if it can be had for \$20.00 per ton. Now I trust that no Patron in Michigan will be persuaded to use plaster from some other manufacturer because it may be sold for less than Day & Taylor furnish it to us for.

THE necessity of the patrons of Iowa for barbed wire is the mother of a new machine for manufacturing it. Barbed wire is much used in Iowa for fencing; and the business agent of the patrons of that state was therefore especially desirous of making some arrangement whereby he could supply his customers with it at reduced price. He and the State executive committee conferred with the leading manufacturers of barbed wire, but were unable to obtain as liberal terms from them as they made with their own agents and retail dealers; and hence no arrangement was consummated. Failing in this direction, the State agent began to negotiate with a manufacturing firm at East Des Moines; and this firm finally invented a machine which, according to the *Helper*, bars wire "more effectually than any process yet invented," and enables patrons to buy barbed wire at eight cents a pound, whereas formerly they had to pay fifteen cents a pound for it. The moral of this story need not, we suppose, be pointed out.

Ladies' Department.

Practical Education.

I believe the subject under discussion to-day is: *Resolved*, That we give our children a more *practical* education. Now these same children belong to the teacher, or are under his or her government for a considerable portion of the time from five to fifteen years of age and upward. These teachers certainly should be *very much* interested in the *Practical Education* of said children.

First what are we to understand by the word *practical*? Useful, beneficial, that which can be put into practice in our every day work. Now let us get a clear understanding of the word *education*. "Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth and fit them for usefulness in the future stations of life." Thus we see that much is included in that one word *education*. Parents send their children to school to obtain an education. Some are satisfied if their children only learn their books by heart. They are *proud* of them. They do not seem to think it necessary for them to apply their *book* knowledge to *practical purposes*. They do not visit the school to see whether the teacher is teaching common sense, with their school-books as helpers, or whether she is only teaching them what is between the two covers of the book, without explanation or practical illustration which their young minds can grasp and master. O no! These parents have no time to visit schools, to see about these matters, that is if they think of them at all. I have seen a scholar who had studied through division a number of times, when asked how much 4 pounds of butter would cost at fifteen cents a pound, that did not know whether to add, subtract multiply or divide. Of what practical use was his knowledge of Arithmetic.

That child's understanding was but little enlightened; and whom shall we blame the parents or teacher? But a great part of education consists in the formation of correct manners, morals, good habits, and correcting the temper. All this is to fit them for usefulness in their future positions in life. Then you will admit of course, that it is of practical use to be so educated. They must be taught to control their temper. There also be taught that it is wrong to cheat, lie, swear, drink, smoke, chew, gamble and numerous other things. But how are they to be taught? By precept or example? Example of course.

What benefit is it to a child to have his father tell him he must not swear, or form any other of those bad habits, while the father is continually practicing them himself? Whatever *father* does, the child thinks, is right for *him* to do also. And they are to be taught politeness. By which we do not mean mere outward show or company manners. But to have respect for their elders, and respect for the feelings of all with whom they may come in contact; with a desire to do unto others as they would be done by under all circumstances. But who is to teach all this? A great responsibility rests upon the parents most assuredly; they are with the children most of the time and have the best opportunity of educating them in many directions. That is, if they fully realize the great work they have to do, and are interested in it. And if parents are not interested, who will be? Next to the parent the teacher is held responsible for the wrong education of the child. And if parents have neglected their duty, so much more devolves upon the teacher. But doubly hard is it for the teacher who is trying to teach the children in her charge to be polite, to have them made sport of at home, when they attempt to carry out those instructions. That discourages both child and teacher. Is it anything more than right to say *please* when we wish for anything, and *thank you* when received? And who would not rather see a child when at table politely ask for what he wishes, and say thank you when supplied; and who patiently waits until his elders have been served; who has been taught not to ask four or five times for the same kind, than to see one who whines if he is not first served, or if he is, who causes his supply to disappear before all have been provided for, and then loudly call for more by saying: *I want this, or I want*

that, give me this, or give me that. And perhaps with his dirty fingers reaches over and helps himself. Isn't it more agreeable to see a child come to the table with hands and face clean and hair combed, than to come with so much "mother earth" clinging to them, and hair pointing to zenith, radius and all points of the compass? If the parents do not teach them that it is wrong, disgusting and disagreeable (and I am sorry there are some who do not) how is the child to know, or be ashamed to present himself in that condition? But why need I go farther? Some will say we are talking about *practical* education. So am I. Isn't that practical which lightens labor, obtains good situations for those desiring them; makes friends and helps to succeed in whatever is undertaken? Which is more sure of success, a person thus educated or one who is rough and ill-mannered, having no regard for the wishes of others respecting himself alone? The former by ALL means. Then is it no practical benefit to him that he has been educated to dispise bad habits; that he has been taught to respect the rights of others; to be courteous to all with whom he may come in contact, by those little attentions which so many consider of no value? But remember "little things make up the sum of life." Then parents why not pay more attention to this part of the child's education; and if teachers are endeavoring to do their part, unite with them and lend a helping hand, instead of placing obstacles in their way. Don't say you haven't time to visit your schools. What is more *precious* to you than that which concerns the *welfare* and *future happiness*, perhaps *life* of your child? Then do not begrudge a half day spent in the school once in a while, to see how your children are progressing, and if their teacher is faithfully trying to fulfill her mission, by administering to them (so far as in her power lies) a *Practical Education*.

A. B. W.

SILVER LAKE GRANGE, No. 624. J
Nov. 23, 1877. J

BRO. COBB: Dear Sir.—Our Grange is progressing finely, though we complain of some tardy members. But the busy season is mostly over, and I am in hopes we shall have better attendance through the winter, and by that time make our meetings so interesting that few if any will stay away. Our District Grange seems of doubtful utility as yet, but may grow better as we get older and stronger. I wish Bro. Whitney or some other good lecturer could come and give us a lecture or two, and thereby revive us a little. I was at Brother Ramsdell's (the present lecturer of our District Grange) a few weeks ago, and I think they are very pleasantly situated, with their house nestled in at the foot of the hills, surrounded by shrubbery, grapevines and orchards; just a pleasant distance from Traverse Bay, and a short drive from Traverse City.

The Author's Petition might well apply to them, and they consider the first part granted and the last attainable. Here it is:

The Author's Petition.

I ask not wealth, if it were given,
It would not purchase Peace in Heaven,
I ask on Earth a rural cot
In some sweet, calm, retired spot,
And there let love and friendship stay,
'Till life sheds her last parting ray;
Then where the weeping willow wove
Give me and mine a peaceful grave.
I ask not sculptured tomb of art
But stamp my image on the heart,
Of fond affection pure, refined,
Where it may ever live enshrined.

I ask for grace, for faith, for love,
A resting place a home above,
I ask not fame, 'tis poisoned breath
And will not save a soul from death.
Bid in my breast ambitious fire
To glittering crowns and robes of white,
In company with angels bright,
Through golden streets to walk and sing
Praise to my Savior, Prince and King.
A SISTER.

HIGH scientific authorities say that the alarming increase of lunacy and suicides is due to the aggregation of people in metropolitan centers where business rivalries are intense. The doctors are no doubt right about the matter. Such facts should cause the blessings of rural life to be more highly appreciated than they now are.

Our Common Schools.

It has been a question with our Legislature and many of our people—what to do? and how to do? for the benefit of our Primary Schools. In this article, I purpose to set forth some views of my own, gathered from experience in teaching and general observation. First, let me find fault and then, suggest a remedy. I would have *better* educated and *more* experienced teachers,—not for the saving of a few dollars would I place an unrefined, uncultured, uneducated person over one of our schools. I would have a uniformity of text-books, (I refer to our Dist. Schools) plenty of blackboards, charts, globes, and necessary apparatus. I would have our school-house made pleasant and home-like—what a change! from a beautiful, refined home, the child's sensitive mind is carried to a dreary, curtainless, dirty school-room, the surrounding yard without a shade tree and often without a fence. School officers, superintendents, and parents ought to visit their schools as often as once a month. The teachers should *invite* and *insist* upon their coming. If parents would visit their schools often they would soon see a growing interest, both in teacher and pupil. When all are interested there would be no lack of these minor things, which every teacher feels to be a necessity. Teachers should be able (and superintendents should require it) to give short talks on Botany, Physiology, Astronomy, Geology and Zoology. Have the children bring specimens of flowers, wood, stones, bugs, flies, etc.; teach the child *more* of what it can make a practical use of, thus making school life more pleasant and profitable. Is it as profitable for a child to know at just what spot, on a certain river in China, some particular city is situated, as to have a little insight into the formation of the earth, or a knowledge of the stars they see every night?

If our County Superintendency proved a failure, surely our present system is no better. The County Superintendent had too much to do and do well; our Town Superintendents (with few exceptions) are incompetent, or considering their office a small affair, do not give it the required attention. I would suggest the following system:—a County Superintendent to inspect the teachers and an Assistant Superintendent, in each town, elected by the people and examined by the County Superintendent. It shall be their duty to visit schools, suggest new methods of teaching, etc., and report quarterly to the County Supt.

In order to have this system complete I would have women hold any school office. Some of our sister States have already granted this; and that women are worthy officers is shown by their number increasing every year. There are many reasons why I think they would fill that position better than men. I will mention but few of the many. 1st. They would make a business of it. 2d. They understand, better than men, the wants and requirements, of small children. 3rd. A woman, as a general rule, approaches nearer a child's heart, and for this reason would be better able to judge of their abilities and needs.

Michigan has always taken the advance step in education, and I believe Brothers and Sisters of the Grange, that we have the privilege (if we will use it) to improve our common schools;—as they are the basis of our whole system, it behooves us to look well to our foundation.

I offer these suggestions, hoping that other and better ideas may be brought out. From the minds of the many may be gathered ideas of great worth to ourselves and our nation. A. S. K.

A PARENT desires that we will remind teachers that one of the great needs of the school-room is plenty of pure air, especially in winter, when rooms are apt to be over-heated. He recommends to open all the windows and doors every half hour, and let pure outside air sweep, (not dribble) through the room for two or three minutes. Meantime let the pupils, headed by their teacher, march around the room, singing as they go. Use the short recess, morning and afternoon, for effecting ventilation in a similar way. See that the schoolhouse is not shut up at noon or in the evening, with all the foul air shut in. — *Portsmouth Weekly*.

Illinois Woman's Congress.

There is a movement among the women of Illinois to hold a State Congress similar to the National Woman's Congress.

The Committee on Topics, Papers, and Discussions announces as the basis of thought and action for the first meeting of the Illinois Association for the Advancement of Women the following subjects:

- How to Simplify Housekeeping.
- The Domestic Problem.
- The Village Caterer.

How can we secure sensible social entertainments?

What are the means of improvement available to women in rural neighborhoods?

- The Business Woman.
- How shall women study medicine?
- Home Protection.

Women on Our School Boards and in Charitable Associations.

- Industrial Schools for Girls.
- Missionary Societies—Their Influence, Direct and Reflex.

Household and Decorative Art.

The Educational Agency of Women's Clubs.

Woman as a Converser.

Women Evangelists.

Woman as a Musician.

Prominent representative women from different parts of the State have been requested to prepare papers upon some of the subjects. Others, however, must be studied into.

The Committee, in preparing these subjects, and in discussing the best methods for evolving thought upon them, also in the honest endeavor to make this a thoroughly representative meeting, make the following announcement: Any woman resident in any part of the State, who is interested in the subjects: "The Domestic Problem," intended to include the "Help" question: "What are the means of improvement available in rural neighborhoods?" and "How to simplify housekeeping" (including the idea, homes vs. boarding-house), is requested to condense her best thought into a twenty-minutes' paper, and send the same to any member of the committee. The best paper will be presented at the conference, and a summary of the best points contained in all the rest. This seems the most practical method of reaching the universal opinion of the women of the State. Therefore, any woman who has given thought to any of these three subjects, is requested to prepare a written statement of the same, and send to the Committee on Topics, Papers and Discussions. The members of this committee are Mrs. Mary Baunster Willard, Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, Miss Nina Lunt, and Elizabeth Boynton Harbert. If the women of the State shall feel a personal responsibility in making this meeting a success, then may we indeed hope for some practical benefit to accrue to all our homes.—*Exchange.*

To be a successful farmer to-day, as compared with the cultivator of the soil in the early history of this country, may require less muscle in felling the huge monarchs of the forest, in clearing land and building stone walls; but it demands more thought, application, investigation and experiments—more brain power. Few men can afford to rest satisfied with the developments of their individual experience alone. A co-operation of thought, action, experiment, and experience such as may and ought to be had in the Grange, tends to broaden the minds of the participants, to strengthen their powers, to brighten their faculties, to relieve their burdens, to increase their comforts and to insure their permanent success.

ENGLAND imported last year \$13,000,000 worth of eggs, chiefly from the continent. Canada also, is beginning to send across the water a considerable number, one steamer alone having lately carried from the dominion of Liverpool 280 barrels of eggs. Here is a hint to our farmers and country-produce dealers.

—The Dominion Grange of Canada will meet on the 15th inst., in Annual Session.

Communications.

LANSING, Dec. 12th, 1877.

Jas. Zaeney, Master Centreville Grange:
DEAR SIR—Your favor asking me to give your Grange the composition of wheat bran is received. I send the following analysis of wheat bran by Poggiale, of France:

Ash, 5.5; Water, 12.7; Nitrogenous matter, (gluten, &c.) 13.0; Dextrin, 7.9; Sugar, 1.9; Starch, 21.7; Woody fibre, 34.6; Fat, 2.9. Total, 100.2.

The total foots up a trifle over one hundred, which shows a slight error.

The amount of starch, sugar, dextrin, fat, and nitrogenous matters would lead us to place a high value on bran as food for animals, but of the 13 per cent. of nitrogenous matters, 3/4 parts are insaluble and indigestible. The woody matter of course is not digested.

Watts in his chemical Dictionary says: "Bran, though rich in nitrogen, appears to possess but when nutritive power. Animals fed upon it, quickly lose flesh." This means that animals are fed upon bran alone. Poggiale, by experiments on animals found that 50 per cent. of the bran is entirely indigestible, and may be passed successively through the bodies of four or five animals without undergoing any change.

Like many other foods, the value of bran is increased by combining it with other foods. When a part of the "shorts" is left with the bran, or when other starching food, like potatoes, is combined with it, the bran has a beneficial influence in consequence of its containing a peculiar substance, *cerealin*, a nitrogenous principle and analogous to diastase, which as the power of rapidly changing starch into dextrin and then into sugar. This is reason why Graham bread is so dark colored and sweet in taste, like bread made from flour of sprouted wheat. The cerealin hastens the digestion of starch by thus transforming it successively into dextrin and sugar.

I regard bran as of more value as an addition to other foods than as a food itself. If it is treated with warm water and left to stand a few hours before use, in order to let the cerealin become dissolved and act upon the starch, the bran will be better relished by the animal, because it is sweeter, and will more rapidly assist in the digestion of other foods.

The mere chemical composition of a substance does not determine absolutely its nutritive value, for if this were true, then horn should be better food than flesh. The solubility and digestibility must also be taken into account. In like manner the value of a material for food may best be determined by ascertaining how it is related to other foods. Many persons have condemned turnips for animal food from consideration of its composition alone, while others have found them of great value, because they assisted the digestion of other foods.

I write at this length simply to show you how many things must be considered in determining the real value of foods.

Very Respectfully Yours, &c.,
R. C. KEDZIE.

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Jan. 5, 1878.

J. T. COBB—*Dear Sir and Bro.:*

I have received the Jan'y number of the VISITOR, and see that my subscription has run out. Please find 50 cents enclosed for another year. I would not do without it for three times its cost. It seems to me that it is God's will that our order in Berrien County shall be a grand success. Opposition only makes us stronger; we are starting another co-operative store, one has run over a year and a half, and is getting stronger every day. We are building good Halls, and our faith in the permanency of the Order is steadfast.

Fraternally Yours,
J. H. FEATHER.

Volinia Farmers' Club.

J. T. COBB, Schoocraft, Mich.:
The following officers were elected for the year 1878:

B. G. Buell, Pres't; M. J. Gard, Sec'y, Volinia, Mich.

Ex. Com.—N. B. Goodenough, W. R. Kirby, W. J. Eaton.

Order of Business.—1. Reading the Minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Discussions of Markets and Reports.

3. Inquiries and Answers.

4. Results of Experiments.

5. Replies to Letters of Inquiry.

6. Discussion of stated subject for the meeting.

Programme for 1878.—Jan'y, Wednesday 16th—Breeding, management and marketing of Hogs—J. Whitam.

Feb'y, Wednesday, 13th—Clover, its importance and management—Wm. J. Eaton.

Mar., Wednesday, 14th—Farm Stock, proportions, kinds and management—B. G. Buell.

April, Wednesday 17th—Corn, varieties, cultivation and marketing—M. J. Gard.

May, Wednesday 10th—Sheep Shearing, show of breeding stock and exhibition and trial of Tillage Implements.

Aug., Wednesday, 23d, 1 o'clock p. m. Wheat, varieties and cultivation—N. B. Goodenough.

Oct., Tuesday and Wednesday 1st and 2d—Town Fair.

Nov., Wednesday 6th—Experience Meeting—H. S. Rogers.

Dec., Wednesday 4th—President's Address, Election of Officers.

Respectfully,
M. J. GARD.

AUSTERLITZ, Kent Co., Mich., }
December 31, 1877.

J. T. COBB, Sec'y:

Dear Sir and Bro.—Not knowing that you have received an election report for Kent County Grange No. 18, I send you it in full:

Master—W. P. Whitney, Fisher Station.

Overseer—John Porter, Grand Rapids. Lecturer—John Preston, Pleasant.

Steward—H. G. Holt, Ada. Asst. Steward—R. Dockeray, Rockford.

Treasurer—Chas. Dole, Grand Rapids. Secretary—M. B. Hine, Austerlitz.

Chaplain—S. Westlake, Grand Rapids. G. K.—Chas. Livingston, Austerlitz.

Pomona—Mrs. John Porter. Ceres—Miss Della Hine.

Flora—Miss Orpha Koukle. L. A. S.—Mrs. Samuel Langdon.

Kent County Grange is in a very flourishing condition, its meetings are well attended, I believe all who attend are well pleased with the work it is accomplishing. Fraternaly Yours,
M. B. HINE.

POMONA GRANGE, No. 10, P. of H. }
HILSDALE, Jan. 2d, 1878. }

J. T. COBB, Esq.,

Dear Sir and Brother:—This is to inform you that at the meetings held Dec. 5th, 1877, and Jan. 2d, 1878, the following Officers were duly elected and installed, viz:

Master.—H. D. Pessell, Quincy, Bran'h County, Mich.

Overseer.—R. W. Freeman. Lecturer.—A. J. Baker.

Steward.—E. C. L. Mumford. Asst. Steward.—Ebenezer Kelley.

Chaplain.—E. L. Kelley. Treasurer.—J. B. Norris.

Secretary.—E. J. Hodges, Jonesville, Hillsdale Co., Mich.

G. K.—Datus Gibbons. Pomona.—Mrs. Lucius Rauney.

Ceres.—Mrs. Daniel Timms. Flora.—Mrs. J. C. Smith.

Stewardess.—Mr. Wm. McDougal. E. J. HODGES, Sec'y.

CANNONSBURG, Jan. 5th, 1878.

J. T. COBB, Worthy Sec'y:

I am rather behind the time in making my Election Report of Cannon Grange, for the reason we have been waiting to die, expecting hourly, we should draw our last breath, but by chance we are now recovering, and have resolved to try and live another year, and the prospect at present is encouraging that we shall accomplish more than ever before. On the afternoon of Dec. 29th, we succeeded in electing our Officers for the ensuing year, to-day we had another meeting, which passed off pleasantly, there being a great deal of interest manifested by those present. En-

closed you will find Election Report, also one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for which you will please send two copies of the Grange VISITOR for one year, and one hundred Blank Receipts for dues, bound. I am well pleased with the enlargement of the VISITOR and its price, and will endeavor to get all the names I can in our Grange.

Yours, Fraternaly,
A. W. DAVIES, Sec'y.

PIPESTONE GRANGE, Dec. 26, 1877.

WORTHY BROTHER:—Enclosed find 50 cts. for which send me blank Receipts for dues.

Our Grange has completed a new hall the past summer. We held our first meeting in it on the 18th inst. for the election of officers. It seems like home to have a hall of our own.

The subordinate Granges in this part of our County are moving to open a co-operative store in Benton Harbor between this and April. We have over \$2,000 in stock already subscribed. We propose making it a branch of the one in Buchanan, which is no longer an experiment, but a success beyond all doubt. Bro. F. Franklin, the business manager of that store is the right man in the right place.

We have too many weak-kneed Granges through the country, who will listen to the oily tongue of the country merchant, until they begin to think the Grange is a humbug, and all its members are beside themselves. Such person ought to take a good Grange paper, and attend Grange Pic-nics, &c., and they would not believe all the country merchants and agents for reapers and mowers, sewing machines and lightning rods, tell them. Yours Fraternaly,
W. L. HOGUE, Sec'y.

LAINSBURG, Dec 31, 1877.

BRO. COBB:—Our Grange, No. 228, held their election for officers for the coming year, last Saturday evening, Dec. 29th. A. F. Place was re-elected Master for the 4th term, by unanimous choice.

We are enjoying peace within the gates. Not one harsh unfeeling sentiment has been manifested for the past three years inside our truly fraternal circle, and as members we have looked after the sick and needy. We have made good progress in the principles of our noble fraternity.

Our members love and cherish the Grange for the good it has done them socially, morally, pecuniarily, and in the great improvement of the intellectual faculties.

We enter upon the New Year with new resolves to make our Grange more interesting and profitable. With our past experience we have strong faith that our bright anticipations may be realized.

Enclosed find 30 cts. for which send the VISITOR to E. O. Place, Hartwellville, Shiawassee Co., Mich.

Fraternaly,
A. F. PLACE.

BURR OAK, Dec. 31, 1877.

J. T. COBB, Sec'y: *Worthy Bro.*—I enclose Quarterly Report, and sixteen names besides my own for the VISITOR, and money order for \$13.50.

The VISITOR in its new form certainly must create a favorable impression, and if some of the talent now lying dormant in the Grange can be induced to show itself in print, the paper cannot fail to be a success financially, while socially and practically of great benefit to progressive Patrons.

Fraternaly yours,
HENRY HAWLEY, Sec'y.

GENOA, Dec. 24, 1877.

BRO. J. T. COBB:—I send you money order for quarter ending December, '77, amount, \$2.52. Our Grange is prospering very well. We rent a hall and have meetings twice a month, and have a jolly good time. We have \$100.00 capital used in purchasing groceries, which we turn over six or seven times a year.

We buy our plaster through the County Council, of Day & Taylor, and we will stick to them by all means. Although our number is small we do a successful and satisfactory business.

Yours Fraternaly,
H. J. SWEET, Sec. No. 79.

GRAND LEDGE, Nov. 17th, 1877.

Grand Lodge Grange No. 301:

Resolved, That the recent action of the Boards of Supervisors of Eaton, Barry and Calhoun counties, in voting a tax upon their constituents as increased pay for the services of Judge Vanzile

was in direct violation of the expressed wishes of the people, was unconstitutional, and has no foundation in justice or equity, and merits our condemnation. Therefore, Be it further resolved, that our representatives constituting the Board of Supervisors of Eaton County, be and are hereby requested to convene in extra session, and recind their former action; also, we commend the action of the Calhoun County Grange in relation to this violation of law.

A. J. REED,
M. B. HOWELL,
A. T. CRANE,
Committee.

LANSING, Oct. 26, 1877.

BRO. COBB:—I send you abstract of Report of the Auditor's of the Lansing Co-operation Association P. of H.

The Association commenced business May 4th, 1877, with a paid up capital of a little less than \$500; at the end of five months and six days the Board of Auditor's made a Report, showing total sales to have been \$48,44 52, or an average of \$35.62 daily. The last half of the time the sales averaged \$4241 per day.

The sales are not confined to members of the Order, but the Store has a very good and increasing trade with those outside the Gate.

G. M. TOWAR.

The pigs require a warm shelter as much as any other animals. Do not imagine because they can endure cold, that it is of any benefit to them. Keeping swine in a piggyery open to the cold, perchance with no bed but the cold wet earth, is like throwing food into a river; it requires food to keep up the animal heat, and the food fed, first goes to this work, second to increasing the flesh. A warm, clean house is cheaper than grain.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

The brothers and sisters of Victor Grange, No. 317, desire to give expression to their sense of loss in the death on the 17th of Nov. of Sister Sarah Sexton, a charter member, and the first of our number to fall a victim to the fell destroyer. We see of a truth "the King of shadows loves a shining mark."

January 5th, 1878, Sister Agnes Johnson, a beloved member of Hartford Grange, No. 89. Resolutions of respect were adopted.

Died on the 29th of November last, at his home in Unadilla, Bro. Patrick McClear, an estimable member of Grange No. 6, and by this notice for the Grange, we desire to give evidence of our loss and express our sympathy for the stricken wife and bereaved children.

D. M. JOSLYN, { Com.
R. BARNUM, {

Redpath's FARM Record.

THE SIMPLEST, MOST PRACTICAL and CONVENIENT BOOK

ever published, for keeping Farm Accounts. Recommended by the leading Agriculturists of the State. Every farmer needs one—every intelligent farmer buys one.

Farmers' and Farmer's Sons
Wanted as Agents in every township. Sample Book mailed to your address on receipt of price, \$1.50. Address J. V. REDPATH, Kalamazoo, Mich

Wm. H. HARRIS,
(Successor to H. D. WETMORE)

General Co-operative Grange Agent.
AND
SPECIAL AGENT FOR LOUISIANA,
No. 48 Corondolet Street, New Orleans.

Orders for Sugar, Molasses, Coffee, Rice, and all Southern products filled at Wholesale cash prices. Consignments of Flour, Meal, Bacon, Lard, Corn, Oats, Hay, Wheat, Bran, Apples, Potatoes, Cabbage, Butter, Eggs, Poultry and Stock solicited. Send for Circular.

\$10. \$15. \$18. \$22.

THE UNIVERSAL SEWING MACHINES

Make the CHAIN and LOCK STITCHES, And embrace all the good qualities of the old machines. No Machine is cheaper! No Machine is better! Guaranteed for five years! Money refunded if not satisfied.

Secretaries, send for specimens of the work, and circulars for your whole Grange.
O. R. INGERSOLL, of Patrons' Paint Co., Front and Dover Streets, New York.

Beautify Your Homes!!

Encouraged by the many kind words from those to whom I sent seeds last year, and in answer to letters of inquiry, I would inform all brother and sister Patrons that I will send them

\$1.50 WORTH OF FLOWER OR VEGETABLE SEEDS,

in packets, or \$1.25 worth of Seeds by the oz., lb., pt. or qt., or \$1.35 worth of *Bulbs, Flowering or Vegetable Plants, Shrubs, Vines or Fruit Trees*, for each and

EVERY \$1.00 SENT ME

by mail before or during the month of March. Light packages will be forwarded by me pre paid. Larger packages will be sent by express and will include extra articles enough to equal the express charges in value. Selections may be made from any

STANDARD RETAIL LIST

of Flower and Vegetable Seeds, Bulbs, Plants, Trees &c. Send for anything you want, from a flower pot to a lawn mower.

Questions relative to the culture of Plants, &c., promptly answered; but such questions should be written on a separate sheet from the orders.

Refer to Mrs. J. J. Woodman, Paw Paw; Mrs. A. S. Stanard, Lowell; or Mrs. R. S. Dickson, Dowagiac.

Address **C. L. WHITNEY,**
Lake Shore Greenhouse and Garden,
MUSKEGON, MICH.

Grow Your Own Delicacies.

LAND PLASTER!

To Plaster Dealers and Consumers.

We are prepared to fill orders for Land Plaster in CAR LOTS at our mill, at same prices as last spring, as follows: In bulk, 10 tons \$1.50 per ton, \$15 per car, or we will fill bags, when furnished, at the same price as bulk. These prices to hold good until further notice.
F. GODFREY & BRO.,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES

Kept in the office of the Secretary of the MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE, And sent out Post Paid, on Receipt of Cash Order, over the seal of a Subordinate Grange, and the signature of its Master or Secretary.

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