

THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
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THE GRANGE VISITOR,

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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

To Contributors.
As the VISITOR now bears date the 1st and 15th of each month, to insure insertion in the next issue, Communications must be received by the 10th and 25th of each month. We invite attention to those interested to our new Heading "TO CORRESPONDENTS."

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.

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

Exec'ive Com. Department.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

BY O. Z. FELLOWS.

Sigh for the past, and glance across
The waste of years, and mourn the loss,
Mourn for that which thou shalt see
Diot the page of memory.

All the hopes of early years,
All the brightest dreams of youth,
Felt the chill of doubts and fears
In the sternness of the truth.

In the present, nobly act;
Lite's a stern, undoubted fact;
Man is weak, but mind is strong,
Right must ever conquer wrong.

Work with faith and work in love,
Stout of heart and true as steel;
Put your trust in God above,
Put your shoulder to the wheel.

In the future without fear
Hope for that which seemeth near,
And in hoping labor still
With a purpose and a will.

Thus in spite of doubts and fears
You may realize in truth,
All the hopes of early years,
All the brightest dreams of youth,
[Dirigo Rural.]

Let us Beautify our Homes.

Berrien Centre, Jan. 21st, 1878.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

As I have been personated to write up articles on the subject of "True Hospitality of the American Farmer's Home," I will ask: Farmers of Michigan, have you hospitable and inviting homes? If not, I want you to go to work and make them so. What do we live for if it is not for true enjoyment, and how can we have that enjoyment if our homes are distasteful to our neighbors, our friends, and passers-by? There is no farmer that can not afford to spend a few leisure moments in fixing up around the house and garden. If we feel unable to purchase costly evergreens and shrubbery to ornament with, let us go to the near wood-lot, then select rock maple, elm, or other suitable trees and plant them tastefully in the front and back yard and garden, sow grass seed and keep the lawn nicely mowed and raked off; arrange little mounds with stone or sod, plant therein some attractive flowering plants; arrange tastefully a flower garden; assist the wife and daughters in doing the hard work, and I assure you they will look after the remainder. Keep your back lot looking as neat as the front; see that every species of decaying substances are picked up, and do not allow any filth to remain upon the ground to decay and germinate disease.

If you will devote a little time to this matter, you will soon be convinced that such labor well performed pays—pays if your ever offer your farm for sale, but pays an hundred fold in the enjoyment it insures to yourself, your family, and your friends. When we return home from a hard day's work we are attracted at once to the flower-garden and lawn, and seeing everything nice, we feel like inviting our neighbors to dine with us,

and see our pleasant home. If we do not have all the luxuries on the table we could wish for, when through eating we step out on the front lawn and see everything neat and tasteful, what we do eat will set well, but if everything is at loose ends—boards, chips, rags, bones, and a thousand other things meet your view, you will conclude that the less you have on the stomach the better. More anon.

THOMAS MARS.

Berrien Centre, Jan. 14, '78.

Bro. Cobb:—You will have to excuse me, for not writing sooner, I have been busy since I last saw you visiting Granges. I find an awakening to the benefits of our cause which I think you will see from the increase in the subscription list of the VISITOR. Berrien Centre Grange, No. 14, voted to subscribe a copy to each family belonging to the Grange, and pay for same from its treasury. There is a general disposition to sustain the VISITOR, as now issued. Berrien County Grange, No. 1, held its annual session on the 8th of the present month; a full attendance. Initiated twenty-three members; held a two days session. Elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

Master.—Thos. Mars.
Overseer.—J. B. Medzger.
Lecturer.—S. J. Barnard.
Steward.—Freeman Franklin.
Asst. Steward.—David Schnarf.
Chaplain.—E. R. Harding.
Treasurer.—C. F. Howe.
Secretary.—Charles Hogue.
Gate Keeper.—Mr. Bishop.
Pomona.—Mrs. T. Mars.
Ceres.—Mrs. Tichnor.
Flora.—Mrs. Hamilton.
Stewardess.—Mrs. Dewitt.
Buchanan Grange Sisters fed us on the fat of the land for the entire time, and we felt at home by the time we took supper the last evening. All went home feeling well paid for the two days spent.

We have a special meeting 2nd Tuesday in February, at Berrien Springs to discuss the wool question. Our next regular meeting will be held at the new hall in Pipestone on last Tuesday in May. I shall be on the tramp for some time to come. Success to the Grange.

Yours, Fraternally,
THOS. MARS.

The Duty on Wool.

BOSTON, Jan. 17.—The leading wool manufacturers, dealers and importers, in session to-day, adopted a memorial to congress, setting forth the general depression of the wool market and the disadvantages under which both producers and manufacturers now labor in this country. The memorial concludes as follows:

We, therefore, most respectfully request that in the revision of the tariff, duties on all wools may be largely reduced if not wholly removed, and that mohair camel's hair, alpaca, vicuna and similar materials, not produced in this country, may be admitted free of duty; and that the duties on wools may be fixed at a moderate rate, corresponding with the scale adopted on other manufactures.—*Detroit Eve. Telegraph.*

The above shows the necessity of farmers attending to their own business, as manufacturers seem to be attending to theirs, by a concert of action worthy of imitation. Forward those remonstrances to Congress.

Education of Farmers.

The importance of educating a farmer is generally acknowledged by all. Not long ago the merest rudiments of farming was sufficient for a farmer. That day has passed. Free Schools are the glory of Wisconsin. The poorest farmer may feel proud that he lives in a State where he can educate his children in the common schools, as though he were a millionaire; and the young man in Wisconsin who grows up in ignorance has no one to blame but himself. If the parent in his greed for gain, shall neglect to give his child the benefit of our free schools in his childhood, still there is time if the child wills, to procure for himself the common branches. The parent who thus fails to give his child the advantages of our free schools, is unfit for freedom or the benefits of our free institutions. There are problems to be solved by this and the coming generations, of vast importance, and who shall solve them so well as the educated farmer?

How long shall the farmer continue to give all the profits of hard labor, to other persons for doing a business that he is perfectly competent to do for himself, and thus save for himself and family the wealth that so freely flows into the hand of the manufacturer. This and other problems are now awaiting a solution: There is too much ignorance among farmers. They read, study and think too little. Too few there are who really think for themselves. Many, and too many seem to think the soil is at fault if it fails to yield an abundant harvest simply by being half plowed, half dragged, or half hoed. Some rely upon the moon for a governor; some think luck is against them. Some are not farmers who till the soil; they are running in the same ruts their fathers run in. They ought to have lived a century ago. Knowledge both practical and scientific, has spread rapidly in the last fifty years. Witness the plow, spade, and hoe, the reaper in lieu of the sickle; the mower in place of the scythe; the horse rake in place of hand rake;—who but a simpleton would fall back to the tools of fifty years ago. There are evidences of knowledge; and who can tell the coming farmer's advantages to be gained by increased knowledge. Genius has turned man's labor into horse labor. The horse tills the ground and sows the seed; kills the weeds and harvests the crop. Genius mounts the sulky rake; his horse may load, and draw, and pitch. The flail is laid aside. The threshing machine does more work in an hour and does it better than formerly was done in a week by man alone. Genius attaches steam to the thresher; steam to the wagon and to the plow. Horses now may retire while water fuel shall do their once heavy labor. Who can foretell what genius may yet do for the educated farmer? Oh glorious genius, oh glorious knowledge, much hast thou done and how much wilt thou do yet for humanity?
"A good laborer places faith in

God;" by the help of genius he sows his seed in the morning, and hopes it may bring forth in the evening. He does his work well and trusts implicitly the Great Ruler to reward him richly for his labors. This faith is like an anchor to the soul, and he who has this faith is steadfast. He that ruleth the universe, doeth all things well. Truly a good laborer places faith in God, and nature's hope, that the early and late rains may bring forth first the blade, then the ear, then the full grown corn in the ear. Hope elevates the heart, stimulates to energy and prepares the way for harvest. A good harvester dispenses charity, Who is so ready as a good harvester or grower to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and contribute to the necessities of humanity? Truly Saint Paul says, "Charity suffereth long and is kind; envieth not, is not puffed up, rejoiceth in truth, beareth all things, hopeth all things, endureth in all things, and never faileth." A good husbandman is noted for his fidelity. Fidelity to his God, fidelity to his family, fidelity to his neighbor, fidelity to the world. Faith, Hope, Charity, Fidelity. Whosoever is possessed of those four is a good subject for a farmer, a merchant, a mechanic, a laborer, a President, a King, or Potentate, a Jew or Gentile; a husband, wife, son or daughter; a neighbor, friend or brother. Surely these four make a good man or woman, and a good Patron of Husbandry. England has solved the problem of co-operation, and it is a success. Will the farmers of the United States take advantage of their experience and go and do likewise, or shall we plod on in the old ruts? Education will surely come in time for our posterity. Why may we not lay hold of it and hasten the good time coming? We need educating to pay as we go. Credit and poverty go hand in hand. Education will teach us to govern as well as to be governed. It will teach us to vote right as well as to think right. Cripple the farmer and you cripple the nation; build up the farmer and you build up a nation of solid growth and wealth. Therefore any law whether it be of National, State, County, or Town origin that is injurious to the farmer, is equally so to the mechanic. Anything that crushes us to the earth crushes them; anything that builds us up builds them up. Show me a prosperous farming community, and I will show you prosperous towns and cities, prosperous mechanics and a contented people. I imagine that the Legislature of Wisconsin at its last session made a mistake when it passed the law exempting the lands of a certain railroad company from taxation for a number of years, and I believe that class of farmers who they misrepresented will see to it that they never misrepresent them again. If railroad money or railroad whiskey or railroad tears, can lead our farmers into the support of such an accursed law, we had better cease sending farmers to the Legislature, and trust our interest to that class of men known as political gamblers. We could not be worse represented, and the chances are that we might win occasionally. *Thieves falling out.* But I anticipate a change. I look for a change; I do not believe the majority of farmers are dishonest, or are so under the control of party that can or will be driven by the party lash into the support of measures wholly antagonistic to their interest much longer. I believe the time will come, and perhaps is now, when we farmers of Wisconsin will take a turn at helping ourselves. Thus far we have sought every ones interest but our own. Nearly all our laws are en-

acted in some other interests. we want to get out of the clutches of this set of men.

It's all right for politicians, but mighty poor picking for us. If we wish a repeal of the exemption law we can have it; if we wish a "Potter law" we can have it; if we wish all property taxed equal, we can have it; if we wish school books at less than one half of the present cost, we can have them. If the rate of interest is too high we can reduce it. All is within reach and we have but to reach out and take them. Will we take them or will we still complain of abuses, wrongs, and evils and follow after such as only love us while we serve them? Farmers' Patrons of Husbandry, all, will we work and vote for our interests, will we pull together? How long will we consent to be the dupes of designing politicians and let our interests go by default? We have the power, will we use it, let us be of one mind—united we stand, divided we fall. We would harm no one, but do good to all men alike; we would not abuse the power we possess, but would stand up manfully and vote for men and measures. Let party take care of party, away with party ties, and party devils; let the devil take care of its own, and we of ours. This should be our motto, this our aim. Again I appeal to you as farmers—shake off the party yoke, cast it far away—be men, be honest men, be upright men and fear not.—*Wis. Bulletin.*

HUMOROUS.

—Undue influence—Paying a man his bribe before the appointed time.

—The surest way to interest the Indian in agriculture is to show him that whisky is made out of corn.

—"I Would not Live Always" is an old song, but nowadays there are a great many persons who are trying all ways to live.

—A lady hit upon a new way of getting rid of the grasshopper plague. Her plan is to deposit the hoppers in a savings bank.

—A Yankee paper wanting to compliment a live-stock journal says it is edited by a man whose head is chock full of live stock.

—The peculiar manner in which a man's hand clings to the door knob in the morning indicates that the molasses candy party is surging through the land.

—Nine men out of ten, when you run against them in the dark, will say Hello! The other one will utter the first syllable and leave you to complete the word.

—The ladies are all down on the telephone. They don't like to have a fellow whispering in their ear, with his mouth, like Sheridan at Winchester, twenty miles away.

—"My dear," said a husband in startling tones, after awakening his wife in the night, "I have swallowed a dose of strychnine!" "Well, then, for goodness sake lie still, or it may come up."

—"Mamma, where do the cows get the milk?" asked Willie, looking up from the foaming pan of milk which he had been intently regarding.—"Where do you get your tears?" was the answer. After a thoughtful silence he again broke out: "Mamma, do the cows have to be spanked?"

—I declare in the name of the Almighty God that no man has a right to be worth \$100,000,000.—*Talmage.* We declare with a full realization of the awful enormity of the offense of trying to come it on Brother Talmage, that we are not guilty.—*Worcester Press.*

The Grange—Its Benefits to the American Farmer.

The following paper submitted by Bro. Sam'l Adams, the Master of the State Grange of Minn., at the late Session of the National Grange shows its present Master, a vigorous writer of broad conservative views, and an abiding faith in the value of the Order of P. of H. to the farmers of America:

To the careful student, tracing the several steps in the history of our Order, it is indeed strange that so many changes should have been made in the fundamental laws in so brief a period. Those in and those out, all seemed anxious to make alterations. Those in were actuated by various motives, and those out sought constant changes in order to produce speedy disruption.

We ought to have been warned. We ought to have understood at a glance the position of our enemies when they were so loud and persistent in their demands for changes. Many friends and newspapers avowedly in sympathy with our cause, took up the refrain, and they too gave utterance to their outcries for mutation and supposed reform.

The upshot to this has been to annul untried regulations; to enact laws contrary to those already established; without subjecting former ones to fair trial or reasonable operation, and to create uncertainty, distrust, discord, danger and gloom, which settled like a death pall over the heads of our hopeful members. The ailments have been, I am convinced, for the most part imaginary, and the numberless doctors have been more intent upon the application of panaceas than the prosecution of a thorough and complete diagnosis of the reputed disease. Some wanted a Farmer's Club, without ceremony or fees; some wanted rites shrouded in the darkest mystery; some wanted to cleanse political cesspools; some wanted to start manufacturing enterprises; some wanted to found libraries and to build seminaries.

Some wanted a wonderful amount of parliamentary knowledge, and deemed everything else of no consequence. Some wanted a patriarchal form of government, and some a town or district meeting style. Some wanted the female element recognized more, and some less. Some were sticklers for technicalities, and some held methods and details in contempt.

Everybody seemed to want his peculiar notions engrafted upon our organic law.

Our constitution has been subjected to the administration of all sorts of nostrums, and the consequence is the life blood has been nearly experimented out of it. I really believe that the fundamental law of the Order was never so wisely and closely adapted to the wants of the American farmer, as when it left the Georgetown Session.

There was a clearly defined, vital strength and potency in it, copied as it was, in many particulars, from the most successful and the oldest organizations of the day and country. It had the elements of unity, discipline, freshness and success cemented with fraternal sympathy and rational charity.

The three golden links of Faith, Hope and Charity were circumscribed by the perfect circle of Fidelity. Then, had a steady, firm course been adopted; had obedience been sternly inculcated to the law as it was, and the first unsteady, sleeping Palinurus been hurled overboard; the noble Grange ship, freighted with the precious hopes of millions, would have

reached a conservative, safe harbor, secure from the cyclones of adversity, and the maelstrom of anarchy. In no age of the world's history has there been such a raving, howling horde of reformers as in the present. In politics, religion, medicine, ethics and everything else the landmarks of our fathers are removed; the desire to reach out after and to serve strange Gods runs riot; the Statesman is sunk in the demagogue; the standard of virtue, honor, integrity, intelligence and Christianity is lowered; the broadest liberty and the least restraint are universally sought. In view of these facts, the question arises, what shall we do to be saved, how shall our Order be made perpetual, sublime? Will continual alterations in our constitution and by-laws give stability to the Order and its purposes?

Will fickleness produce constancy? Will the conversion of this body into a sort of Chamber of Commerce, consisting for the most part of representatives from a very few of the larger States give additional and abundant proof of its National character?

Will the elimination of the delicacy, refinement, purity and the nobler sentiments of fraternity from this part of our organization strengthen the Subordinate Granges? Will the destruction of the symmetry and beauty manifested in the formation of our Order throughout its various grades produce any good result? Let us not deceive ourselves any longer. The fires upon our alters must be extinguished in no State. No invidious distinctions must be made in the grand chain of our nation. All links should be of the same size, made resplendent and welded together by the enduring principles of Fraternity, Equality and Unity.

All the rational aims of our people may be accomplished, but we must remember it will take time. We should go slow; walk circumspectly; and weigh well what we say and what we do. Let us know no North, no South, no East, no West, no large States, no small States; but let us be animated solely by the desire to be a united household, laboring only to accomplish great good for all. May we so legislate that we shall be enabled to hand this Order down to future generations "the penman's theme and the poet's inspiration, challenging through countless years the jubilant praises of an emancipated people, and the plaudits of an admiring world."

Michigan State Grange.

LANSING, Mich., Dec., 13th, 1877.

EDITORS OF HUSBANDMAN:—The Michigan State Grange met in its fifth annual session in the hall of the House of Representatives of the Old State House, at 10 o'clock A. M., Tuesday, the 11th inst.

Worthy Master Woodman assumed the chair promptly at the hour. The attendance of members and visitors is large; larger than ever before. It is largely composed of new members, or at least of those who were not members of the last Grange. But the same earnest hopeful intelligence is manifested here that was so apparent in the last session. The Grange is composed of about 165 members, and nearly every seat is full. The session is necessarily short, and a great deal of labor is crowded into a very short time. Before the close of the first day's proceedings the organization was completed in all its parts. The standing committees, sixteen in number, were all announced. Each member was placed on some one of the several committees.

Worthy Master Woodman is entitled to great credit for the rapidity,

smoothness and accuracy with which business is transacted. The Patrons of this State are a little proud of their Master. He is not only one of the best parliamentarians in the State, but one of the best men. His annual address was delivered in the afternoon of the first day of the session. It is a very full and carefully prepared document. This address read in connection with those previously presented by the Master leaves but little to be said in reference to the objects and aims of the Order.

Secretary Cobb, also presented his annual report on the first day of the session. It is a complete and able record of the doings of his office for the last year. It is universally conceded to be the best of his reports.—It was good enough. While the membership has fallen off to some extent, still the finances of the Grange seem to be in good condition. The Treasurer's report shows not a large amount of money in the treasury, but all debts are paid and a little money left.

Petitions and memorials flow in from various parts of the State asking for a change in the laws and workings of the Order. But these petitions are not as numerous as at former sessions, indicating that the Order has become more crystalized in its views and purposes. The three questions which have occupied the attention of committees and the Grange to a greater extent than any other have been: The future of the business agency? The publication of the *Visitor*? And how to revive dormant Granges.—Many other subjects have been considered but these are the most important ones. The discussions are some times able and always earnest. Wednesday evening a resolution was offered declaring the general principles of the Order. A long discussion was indulged in. A good feeling prevailed attended with a large degree of enthusiasm. There is one astonishing thing about a State Grange. Its sessions continue for about ten hours daily. Of the one hundred and sixty five members present, at least one hundred and fifty are constantly in their seats. Ladies can be seen in their seats from nine o'clock A. M., until ten P. M. with the exception of three hours recess for dinner and supper. There is something intensely interesting about these sessions, or the Grange could not retain its members in their seats. There are evidences on all hands of the vast improvement made by the Order intellectually and socially, saying nothing about its financial benefits. And these are important, greater than is generally supposed. The plaster question which has occupied so much of the time of the Grange and the Executive Committee for the last four years is for the present at least in a pretty good condition, if the Grange mill is patronized as well as last year. The price of the article has been reduced by the Grange competition in the last two years one-half, or from four dollars per ton to two dollars. It is believed that it is now cheap enough, or as cheap as it can be afforded. Taken as a whole one thing seems to be evident, the Michigan Grange has come to stay, for it is in the hands of sturdy good men and women. GRANGER.

—A young lady of Clinton, Iowa, sent twenty-five cents and a postage stamp in reply to an advertisement of "How to make an impressiou," and received for an answer, "Sit down on a pan of dough."

Bro. J. H. Thompson, former Lecturer of the National Grange, is soon to start on a visit to Pomona and county granges in various States.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW

Address Delivered at the Opening of the Farmers' Institute, at Paw Paw, January 17th, 1878, by J. J. Woodman.

Farmers of Van Buren County and Western Michigan:

We have met to compare views and discuss questions, intimately connected with farming and the science of agriculture. "The world moves," its history is being written, and every page is headed with the word *progress*. Although agriculture existed before literature or governments, and was made by Creative Wisdom, the first and most important calling of man, yet it was left for us of the nineteenth century, to place it where it justly belongs; among the sciences to be taught in the schools, studied as a necessity, and followed as a profession.

The history of the old world, has been but the history of oppression to the tiller of the soil. He has been deprived of the ownership of the land he cultivates, and made a mere tenant, a serf, a fixture of the soil dependent upon his Lord and Master; and forbidden to stand up in the pride of his manhood, and the image of his Maker, and show himself the peer of others in social life, intellectual culture, and political influence.

It was not until the compact, made and signed in the cabin of the May-Flower, had been fully recognized as the fundamental principle of government upon this continent, and resulted in the enactment of just and equal laws, which guaranteed to the husbandman independent ownership of the soil, that agriculture began to burst the fetters which ages of oppression had been forging, and claim its recognition as one of the most honorable and important avocations in life.

The establishment of free institutions in this country, was not only a new era in the history of civil governments, but in agriculture, and intellectual development. The farmer has been made not only a free man, and the owner of the soil he cultivates, but his own thinker, manager and executor. Self interest and a laudable ambition to excel in farming, has inspired him to seek knowledge, not only from science, observation and experience, but from association and discussions; and a free interchange of views upon practical questions relating to all the diversified interests of agriculture.

Free Schools, Agricultural Colleges, Fairs, Associations, and Farmers' Institutes, have been established, and through their influence light and knowledge have been disseminated, and made to triumph over ignorance and inherited habits; and brain power over mere muscular force. There was a time and within the recollection of some of us, when the simplest rudiments of learning were considered to be all that were necessary for a farmer. Well developed muscles, and a disposition to use them, was the only guaranty to success in agricultural pursuits. It required but little thought to spade the ground, plant, hoe, and gather the crops.

In the labors of the field and the household the aid of all science, except Astronomy, was ignored: The Moon was consulted in seed-time and harvest, and the Stars, in the regulations of the nursery, and the farm-yard. These and other relics of the superstitious and dogmatic notions of past ages, are being dispelled by the light of truth and knowledge, theoretical illusions, supplanted by es-

tablished facts, and the labors of the field lightened by the combined influence of science and inventive genius. And yet, the science of agriculture is in its infancy.

Agricultural schools, laboratories, libraries, museums, experimental farms, and Professors of agriculture, have but just commenced their work; yet the "Rubicon has been passed," the prejudices of the people overcome; and as no other profession or calling, presents so broad a field for thought and the utilization of the deductions of science, the advantages already gained are but drops, to be compared to the refreshing showers which are to follow. Science may never be able to explain the marvelous processes of growth and decay in the vegetable world, or fathom the unknown depths and mysteries of Geology, or enable the farmer to utilize all of the wonderful developments of Chemistry and Meteorology. It cannot be expected that the wisdom of man, will change the laws of nature, and prevent droughts and storms, heat and frosts, blight and mildew, or the depredation of insects; but when the laws which govern these, are fully known and understood, their destructive influences will be greatly overcome and diminished, by judicious management, and wise foresight.

I fancy that some one may ask, if science is so essential to agriculture, why is it that some of our most successful farmers, received but a common school education, and are therefore unacquainted with abstruse sciences? The great thinkers of the world were not all graduates of colleges. Science means knowledge, and is the same whether acquired in the college, the log school-house, or on the farm. A fact established or a principle demonstrated by an uneducated man, is none the less valuable or scientific. A scientific farmer is one who works with a knowledge of what he is doing, and if unaided by learning, he has by his own efforts acquired the knowledge and skill, which has put him upon the road to success, he is a benefactor of his race, and from him, even the learned Professor may acquire some of the most important and valuable scientific principles in farming. Fortunate indeed, is the student who leaves school, with a cultivated taste for learning, and a correct knowledge of the mere principles which underlie the great truths of science, in comparison with the young man or woman, who, wearied with years of unremitting toil, has acquired but a superficial knowledge of many things.

The one has provided a foundation upon which will rise a structure grand and durable.

The other, having "built upon the sand," has failed in the object sought, and however costly the structure, it will be of but little value.

Education, to be useful, must be practical, and thorough. Theories, that will not stand the most thorough tests, are worthless.

The great question which most interests the American farmer to-day is, "How to raise crops at a profit, and not only keep up, but increase the fertility of the soil?" This question is a practical one, and upon its proper solution, depends not only the future of agriculture in this country, but of the nation itself. The soil *can* and *must* be made to produce more. This should be understood, and every means within our control, employed to produce this result. I verily believe that the average wheat crop of this State can be doubled, by proper cultivation, a systematic rotation of crops, and the use of such means of fertilization as are within the reach of every farmer. There are men within these

walls, who have practically solved this problem in the cultivation of their own farms; but the principles upon which success has been reached are not generally understood.

These Institutes are for mutual improvement, and the dissemination of useful knowledge; and if rightly conducted, will result in much good. Here we see men who have made farming a success, ripe in years, yet cheerful, hale and hearty, with their life long experience, fund of knowledge and well filled pockets, living examples of the pleasant, healthful, ennobling and profitable occupation of husbandry. Also men in middle life, who are battling with obstacles and toil; and absorbed in the accumulation of knowledge, and the business of the farm. They come fresh from the field, with their recent experiments and new discoveries. Here too, are Tyros in farming, who are testing theories, and demonstrating facts, collecting new ideas, and utilizing old ones. And there may be with us those who have not succeeded well in farming, yet not willing to give up, but determined to profit by experience, and recover from adversities.

There are also with us men of learning, with their wisdom, their science, their theories, their demonstrations, and the results of experimental agriculture; and it only remains for us to throw off that difference common to farmers, and engage in a full and free interchange of views upon the several interesting subjects that will come before us, to make this one of the most interesting and profitable gatherings of farmers ever held in this country.

We are happy to see so many present, and in behalf of the citizens of Paw Paw and vicinity, I cordially welcome you to this intellectual treat, this farmers' "love feast," and invite you to accept the hospitalities of our people.

The Postmaster-General has very wisely decided to adopt a new style of postage stamps, with a view of securing additional safeguards against the fraudulent practice of washing canceled stamps. We would be glad to see him go one step further and require all postage stamps to be printed at the seat of government, under the immediate supervision of the Department. This important business of engraving and printing the postage stamps should not be intrusted to the fidelity of a few subordinates in New York but should be done in Washington, under a carefully-devised system of checks and guards against frauds.

LET it be recorded of the Senate of the United States of the forty fifth Congress that the one petition which it received as a preposterous joke and treated with utter contempt and outrage was the petition of tens of thousands of the mothers, daughters and wives of the land; that the one petition which they received and dropped with utter indifference was the petition against intemperance—the petition that seeks to lighten the heavy load of degradation, misery, murder that lies upon the land and most heavily upon the hearts, the lives, the homes of women.—*Mary Clemmer, in the Independent.*

SENATOR Gordon, of Georgia, in a letter on Southern cotton mills, says: "The labor employed is white labor. It is a common error in the East to suppose that Southern mills employ negro help. The tastes and adaptability of the negro unfit him for this work. Their fingers lack the deftness their brains the wakefulness necessary to a mill operator. The department bosses are, as a rule, selected either from Europe or the Eastern States."

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, FEB. 1st, 1878.

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.

Our Plaster Interest at Grandville.

Having business at Grandville, with Messrs. Day & Taylor, on Monday, the 21st inst., I looked over their Plaster mill, fixtures, and all the surroundings. As I had not been on the ground for several months, I found that important changes had been made, and improvements added of a substantial character. Under a roof of flint rock four feet in thickness, twenty feet below the surface we found the miners at work, drilling and blasting out Plaster rock from a bed twenty-two feet in thickness. But few men are now employed in the quarry, as a large am't of rock was taken out during the summer and fall. Three thousand tons of which has been ground and is now in the very best condition for shipment. As much more is piled under sheds, convenient to the mill, and is well seasoned, and will be ground as fast as warehouse room is made by shipping that now ready for market. The plaster is taken to the surface on cars, running over an inclined track from the bottom of the quarry to the surface of the earth.

Turn-tables and tracks at the bottom and top make it convenient to load the car in the mine, and unload it—under sheds through the center of which the track runs. This track being in line with the mill, the plaster when wanted is run into the mill from the sheds on these same cars by horse power.

The engine used in grinding, furnished the necessary power for drawing plaster out of the pit. The whole arrangement seems well calculated to get the plaster ready for shipment at the least possible cost.

This is desirable at any time, but at present prices it is absolutely necessary that every facility be employed for bringing the rock from its native bed to the point of shipment with the least possible expense.

There are advantages in the great thickness of this plaster bed over those of less thickness that lie near the surface, that are apparent to any one visiting this mine.

Other things being equal, one thing is certain, Day & Taylor now have such facilities for making land plaster that they can't be drove out of the business by fair competition. Making land plaster in connection with the manufacture of stucco is no doubt more profitable than when the business is run as by Day & Taylor, manufacturing land plaster exclusively for the use of farmers. We think we have shown more than once to the satisfaction of every one who has given the matter

any attention, that the chances of getting just what you want, and just what you order—that is pure plaster, of Day & Taylor, are far better than of those manufacturers who select the best rock for stucco, and grind the balance with the refuse into land plaster. And this is a matter of quite as much importance to the farmers of Michigan outside the gate as to the Patrons themselves. In fact in all our efforts to procure good goods at fair prices, our brother farmers have been and are interested in our success in common with us.

The history of our contest with the Plaster monopoly of the North-west will bear repeating to our brother farmers, when you ask them to join with you in ordering plaster of Day & Taylor.

"Whom the God's destroy they first make mad."

We don't know as any of the manufacturers of plaster are mad, but it is safe to say, that since they combined four years ago, and fixed the price of plaster at \$4.00 per ton, they have gone on perpetrating the follies of mad men, and apparently learning nothing by the lessons of experience, which in most cases are instructive and salutary. Already some of the parties to that wicked combination are driven to the wall, and the rest in their hostility to their old customers—the farmers, seem intent on their own destruction. It is not pleasant to see business men persist in doing foolish things year after year, but in this matter I have the satisfaction of knowing that with these men of the old plaster association, in solemn council assembled, I labored faithfully for a day and a half in February, 1875, trying to satisfy them that their interest as well as that of the farmers of the State would be promoted by making a little concession from the price they had fixed upon, and by treating us as well as they did the few agents that had been standing between them and the farmer.—That labor was not wholly lost. It resulted in having the position of the manufacturers so well defined that the odium of having conspired together to extort an unreasonable price, and fix unreasonable and unusual conditions upon the sale of plaster was fastened upon them, and they have been forced to confess that their combination was wicked and ruinous to themselves—a confession they would have been slow to make if they had not been defeated in their purpose by the Executive Committee of the Mich. State Grange, aided by the firm of Day & Taylor, of Grandville.

To combine against their own customers was a mistake—to try and buy up Patrons of the State last year, by offering plaster at one-half the combination price, was another—and to persist in offering plaster this season at less than cost, after the proof of last year that it takes more than a dollar to buy a Granger is a blunder that would almost seem to call for the appointment of a guardian. These plaster men at the Rapids seem to profit but little by the lessons we have taught them, and are either determined on a course of practical benevolence, by furnishing plaster to the farmers of Mich. at less than cost, or else they intend to furnish, as they certainly did to a considerable extent last year, an inferior and stale article that must be got out of their way at some price.

The Patrons of this State will buy what plaster they want of Day & Taylor; will pay \$2.00 a ton for it—get a pure article and call it cheap enough. But we must urge those who have warehouses to order at once what they want shipped. Day & Taylor, judging the future by the past, prepared for early shipment, as last year at this

time they were loading several cars every day. As none has yet been shipped from any of the mills, there will soon spring up a demand for cars, and some will be disappointed in not getting plaster as soon as expected. We hope this suggestion will be heeded, and all who can take care of it, or who have plaster houses will order it forwarded at once.

The Visitor.

The VISITOR as enlarged seems to give very general satisfaction, every reference to it so far received has been of approval. We have many promises of aid from Masters and Secretaries in increasing its circulation, and some very substantial evidences of their earnestness in the work. Several Granges have voted to supply every family with a copy, and pay from the treasury of the Grange. We are getting about fifty subscribers, including renewals each day. This would soon show a large list, but about two thirds of the subscriptions of last year expired with the year, so that to-day, we have not as many subscribers as we had last year. Those interested in the VISITOR as now issued must see to it that old subscribers all renew, and that some new ones be obtained. This is an absolute necessity to make the paper pay its own way, and as we stated very explicitly in the first enlarged No. Our Executive Committee will never allow the paper to become a tax upon the State Grange treasury. It cannot be furnished at the present low price without more paying subscribers. That we shall have them depends entirely on the efforts of the friends of the paper, and friends of the Order.

Some old subscribers may not have noticed that their last paper had 33 written on the margin of the paper at the right of its date, and against "Your Subscription will expire with this No."

This is kept standing, and every subscriber will in this way be notified when he gets the last No. he has paid for. We shall adhere inflexibly to the rule adopted, and stop the paper with the notice on the margin. The GRANGE VISITOR is a Grange Paper, and will be run on Grange principles for the good of the Order at cost.—That it will aid in building up and strengthening the Order in the State, just in proportion to its circulation, we think will not be denied. Shall this agency of the Order be sustained? In answer to those who want to know what about their thirty cent subscriptions, we would say: That thirty cents paid for twelve numbers, and the twelve numbers you will get, and get much sooner than you expected. We invite those who sent thirty cents in December, to send the additional twenty cents, and they will be credited for payment of a Subscription for a full year.

Farm Visits.

On another page will be found a communication from a Committee sent by Oakwood Grange, No. 333, to examine and report upon the condition of certain farms belonging to some of its members.

This plan would seem to have some merit in it, and if adopted, would soon improve the appearance of many a farm in every neighborhood of the State. There are few farms but what will bear a few hours work picking up odds and ends, and putting things in their places, and there are few farmers that would not find those few hours to do that work if they knew a Committee of their brother farmers were to visit and inspect and report upon the condition of their premises

in two weeks. This usage has a valuable social adjunct when conducted on Grange principles. The Committee should take their wives—not undertake to do to much work in an afternoon, and always stay to tea.

The only objection that can be urged against this plan is the effect that a good supper might have upon the report of the Committee. "The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" might not be reported. But we are inclined to believe that Committees of this kind if judicious in their criticisms may do a good work.

We had written a part of an article about the good things we have seen, heard and tasted at Grange meetings for the installation of Officers; but the Foreman tells us—"to much copy already. Can't take any more—have a page already set that must lie over until next time." Well, perhaps this is a good state of things—at all events it might be worse. But brothers and sisters don't be frightened, send on your articles—I can wait.

Granges delinquent in reports from Secretaries for two or more quarters:

Nos. 48, 51, 111, 121, 146, 147, 156, 206, 223, 234, 244, 249, 251, 255, 302, 320, 324, 330, 386, 409, 410, 422, 431, 469, 473, 477, 486, 493, 496, 498, 500, 501, 502, 527, 531, 542, 551, 552, 559, 567, 587, 596, 604, 607, 612, 617, 620, 622.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Alfred Parker.—What Grange?
 S. Ale, Sec'y.—What Grange?
 A. Wilcox.—20 cents received without P. O. or name, or No. of Grange.
 S. W. Jennings.—What Grange?

Golden Sheaves in Silver Band.

BY GLEANER.

Give to the infant, tender care;
 To the child, wholesome food and beautiful thoughts,
 To the youth, out-door exercise, pleasant tasks and good examples.
 To middle age, encouragement and co-operation,
 To declining years, sympathy and gratitude,
 To old age, supporting care, and respectful deference;
 Thus, our hands shall be helpful,
 Our thoughts shall grow bright,
 Our aims shall be noble,
 Our arms shall be strong, and our honor enduring,
 Our hearts shall grow large, and
 Our lives will be beautiful.

PONTIAC, MICH., Jan. 21st, 1878.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

DEAR SIR.—I think that the VISITOR has been pretty well canvassed for in this vicinity for I can not get much of a list, but here is \$1.50—Geo. W. Benjamin, Pontiac, (new subscriber); Wm. H. Chafy, Four Towns, and A. J. Crosby, Jr., (old Subscribers).
 The Oakland Pomona Grange, No. 5, met in Pontiac on Tuesday, Jan. 8th, and elected and installed the following:
 M.—Robert Garner, White Lake.
 O.—Chas. K. Carpenter, Orion.
 L.—A. J. Crosby, Pontiac.
 S.—Wm. H. Chafy, Four Towns.
 Asst. S.—A. E. Green, Farmington.
 Chap.—Ira W. Donaldson, Pontiac.
 Treas.—A. N. Goble.
 Secy.—J. Jackson, Birmingham.
 G. K.—Wm. Satterlee.
 Pomona.—Mrs. C. K. Carpenter.
 Ceres.—Mrs. Wm. Satterlee.
 Flora.—G. M. Shattuck.
 Lady Asst. S.—Mrs. A. E. Green.

The next meeting will be held at Farmington, February 5th. The meetings of this Pomona Grange have been held in different parts of the county, and great interest is manifested in all its labors, and most of our working members of the Subordinate Granges are joining, while a general good feeling prevails even among some who thought unfavorably of the organization at first. We think that the Pomona Grange needs only to be fairly known to be justly appreciated and properly supported in its work. Fraternaly yours,
 A. J. CROSBY, Sec'y.

—Never leave off a brass chain till you get a gold one.

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, - CENTREVILLE.

Patrons, There is Something of Importance to You in the Following.

CENTREVILLE, Jan. 25th, 1878.

I have endeavored to get as good farm machinery as there is made, of all kinds used, and have spent considerable time in visiting and examining the different makes and getting prices, and now believe that there is none better than such as I have contracted for. And if preferences and prejudices could be laid aside, and agreements made to use only a few of the best makes, prices could be materially reduced from what they now are; but so long as each person must have something different from his neighbor, just so long we must pay high prices and support a lot of middlemen and traveling agents, that prey upon farmers, and look upon them as lawful objects to be plundered and swindled, and who care no more for them than a plaster dealer, who said, "All he wanted was their money, he did not care a damn for them. Therefore he had just as leave sell poor, worthless stuff, if he could succeed in putting it off on the dum-heads who liked to be humbugged, and could be bought for twenty-five cents any time."

Shall we not try to get out of the mud and mire of ignorance, and not spend our life time uselessly?

I would call the attention of all wanting wagons the coming season, to the one made at Buchanan, which I furnish and have sent out extensively during the two years past, as being unsurpassed in durability by any other; and is recommended as the best by farmers acquainted with the South Bend, Niles, and other makes of wagons.

I can furnish annealed fence wire from \$4.50 to \$6.00 per cwt., according to size of wire, at any quantity desired. Steel and iron drag teeth at wholesale rates. Nails have advanced to \$2.75 for 10's and larger; smaller sizes in proportionate price, in wholesale quantities. All kinds of building materials are firm, and prices are advancing; lumber will probably be higher in the spring, and all who are in need had better get it soon.

I have the best hand corn-sheller made. It separates the corn from the cobs, cleans it and puts it in a bag ready for the mill or market, and is now furnished for \$10.00 on car here. I can fill orders for the Kalamazoo Diamond Iron plows, Jonesville, Battle Creek, Mishawaka, Union City, and South Bend Co.'s chilled plows. Oliver don't want to sell his plows to Patrons, and I hope none will want them, as I have plenty of others equally as good, if not better. Let us leave all manufacturers alone who refuse to sell us direct, and let their agents have a monopoly of their tools, and don't deprive the agents of their use.

My stock of Boots, Shoes, and Groceries is still ample to fill all orders, and my arrangements are such that I can furnish anything wanted in that line. In ordering matches, remember that 14,400 are a gross. Thus 144 boxes of 100 each, or 200 each, or 48 boxes of 300 each are called a gross. They generally come two or three gross in a case. Parlor matches are sold by the dozen packages, 100 in a box. I keep Richardson's matches on hand; there is no better or cheaper, considering the quality and convenience of the boxes they are put up in.

Don't forget to order your Plaster

soon, so that it will be on hand when wanted; and remember to sow it early, so as to receive the full benefit of it next season. An observing farmer of Kalamazoo informs me that he generally sows in February, and he is satisfied that he gets better returns than if it was applied later in warm weather.

Clover and grass seeds are at bottom prices, and all in need of them should procure a good supply and use freely, for a good crop of grass is worth more than a poor crop of grain, and the land is not exhausted.

I can furnish Michigan test Oil, inspected, on car here, for 29c a gallon by the barrel, the same as at Detroit, if money is sent with orders, not otherwise.

I wish all correspondence to be in sealed envelopes, as postal cards are frequently lost or miscarried; besides, they give public notice of business transactions and are very inconvenient for me to file away when they contain orders to be preserved.

Report of the Farm Visiting Committee.

NUMBER ONE, -1877.

To Oakwood Grange, No. 333:

The committee to visit farms having performed the duty assigned to it, offer the following report:

We first visited the farm of our worthy Overseer, Bro. James Phillips, whom we found at home, ready to give us a cordial welcome. This farm, containing eighty acres of improved land and a wood lot of twenty acres, lies in the southwest part of the township of Sturgis, is nearly level, and as handsome a piece of land as can be found in St. Joseph county. Soil a heavy sand-loom formerly covered with Oak timber, constituting what is known in Michigan as Oak openings. Wheat and corn are the principal crops raised for market. A small apple orchard usually gives fruit enough for family use, but was barren this year. But little stock is kept on the place. We saw some very fine pigs, a cross between Chester's and Poland's. The farm buildings are in good condition, as are the fences also. The implements of husbandry were all housed. A well-filled corn-crib bore testimony to the general thrift, and everything we saw denoted successful farming. There are 27 acres of wheat on the ground, of the Fultze variety, sowed from 13th to 15th of September. Ten acres of this is on stubble, eight on clover sod and nine fallow. Rotation, corn, wheat and clover, which always succeeds wheat, unless on clover sod, when it is followed by corn and summer fallow for wheat again. Sometimes two crops of wheat in succession are taken from the same ground, and seeded to clover with the second one. All the manure made is put on the ground intended for corn—drawn out after harvest, and plowed under in the following spring.

Bro. Phillips informed the committee that his greatest yield of wheat in the last five years, was 32 bushels per acre, the smallest, 17½ bushels the last harvest. His average yield of corn was 40 bushels to the acre.

The committee is of the opinion that this brother might improve the appearance of the grounds about his house. A well kept lawn with a few ornamental trees and shrubs interspersed, adds much to the beauty and attractiveness of the farm, and gives it a more home-like appearance.

The next farm visited was that of Bro. John Burger, about one mile further west on the same road. The

soil and situation are similar with the exception that the highway runs through it, between the house and barn. This farm contains 100 acres, 90 of which are under cultivation. Wheat is the principal crop raised for market, but considerable crops of corn, potatoes, and white beans are raised.

Bro. Burger has on the farm 14 head of cattle, 3 horses, and 30 hogs.

Most of the manure is put on the wheat ground after plowing and is harrowed over before sowing. No regular system of rotation is practiced. Corn is generally followed by potatoes and beans, after which wheat is sown the same year. Some wheat is grown on clover sod; often two crops in succession, with no apparent diminution in the yield. Clover Seed is used freely. There are 40 acres of this fall's seeding of wheat. We saw one piece of Clawson on clover sod from which a crop of hay was cut, which is very fine. It was sown broadcast by hand and worked in with the new spring-tooth harrow. The brother stated that he attained better results from the fields on which manure was used, than where crops are grown on clover sod without manure. The committee remarked the clean appearance of the cornfield; There were few weeds to be seen, and it was evident that the proprietor does not believe in letting them grow.

We found buildings and fences in good order generally, and farm implements under shelter. The corn, which is of excellent quality was being gathered into the crib. Appearances denote the successful farmer, but there was little evidence of good taste in the appearance of the grounds about the house.

After a pleasant chat with Brother and Sister Burger, and a walk over a part of the farm, we proceeded to the hospitable mansion of our worthy Master, Bro. C. Y. Runyan, and were cordially welcomed by him and his interesting family. Here we put our horses in the stable and made ourselves at home until late in the evening—our visit being prolonged by one of those drizzling rains for which October is remarkable. But we had a good time and did ample justice to the bountiful repast which Sister R. had provided and for which her house is particularly noted.

Bro. Runyan's farm which lies on both sides of the Chicago road, half way between Oakwood Hall and White Pigeon village, contains 160 acres, 120 of which is improved upland, the balance being marsh and woodland. Wheat is the principal crop raised for market; what corn is grown being mostly fed on the farm. A few cows with some young cattle and sheep are kept, and a few hogs also. The manure is put on the ground where corn had been grown the previous year, and the land then summer fallowed for wheat. Usually two crops of wheat are grown before seeding to clover. Bro. R. has no regular system of rotation. Wheat follows corn, and sometimes this is reversed, and corn follows wheat. The average yield of wheat was stated to be about 20 bushels to the acre. In 1874 a 20 acre field gave 35 bushels to the acre. The yield of corn this year was 80 bushels of ears to the acre.

This farm is in exceptionally good condition. The highway is bounded on each side by a hedge of Osage Orange which is kept neatly trimmed. Unlike many others, the road is full legal width and has a row of shade trees on each side. On one side, between the hedge and shade trees, the ground has been graded for a sidewalk which is all that could be ex-

pected in a country place. This fact is here noted with the hope that other farmers may take the hint and follow the example. The whole farm is arranged with fields of convenient size with Osage hedge or good rail fence. On the west side of the orchard the hedge is allowed to grow up for a windbreak, after having had several trimmings to induce a thick bottom growth. Some evergreens have also been planted about the house, which, as they become large will prove a good shelter. Bro. R.'s family appreciate a good garden of fruits and vegetables, and the daughters show a commendable zeal in the cultivation of flowers. Sister R.'s house-plants show the good attention they have, and form an attractive feature of the house.

The committee finds on'y one thing deserving of much criticism. The barns border on the highway and almost necessitate a cluttered appearance of the roadside in front; but as they were built at an early day, we cannot charge the present owner with the responsibility of the arrangement. We cannot, however, too strongly condemn the practice of setting farm buildings close up to the roadside and making a barn-yard of the highway as many farmers do, although Bro. R. is not chargeable with this latter sin.

The committee was highly gratified with the general good appearance of the farms visited, and close by wishing their owners many years of prosperity.

GEORGE N. RICH,
ROBERT HILL,
HENRY COLLINS,

Committee.

Correspondence.

VICTOR GRANGE, No. 317,
January 4th, 1878.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

Enclosed with this, find the Secretary's report for the past quarter together with dues for same; also my subscription to the VISITOR. We are very much pleased with the improved condition of the paper, and shall try to increase its circulation in our Grange. We feel that it should be sustained, and made the medium of communication upon all subjects that interest the Grangers of Mich.

Our Grange is moving on quietly, and receipts up all of its regular meetings. We have on our list thirty-five good regular members, and have got our organization "incorporated."

Our number is small, never have had, all told a large Grange, but now with the delinquent ones all weeded out; we have a very good working body.

Our Grange is in favor of reducing the initiation fees to \$1.00 and \$3.00, and think we shall increase our numbers if the amendment is ratified.

The annual election of our Grange occurred Dec. 29th, electing Bro. Wm. S. Parke, its Master.

The question box is used to advantage in our Grange. We have discussed some of the following questions: "Is the Grange a success?" "Which affords the most profit to the farmer to raise sheep or swine?"

"How much wheat should be sown per acre, and when, how and what variety?" "Will wheat turn to chaff?"

Our Grange meets in the Town Hall, as we do not have any hall of our own. We have faith that the Order is accomplishing a vast amount of good, and hope that all that are engaged in the honorable business of agriculture will join our Order, and give us a helping hand.

J. C. BRUNSON, Late Sec'y.

EDEN, Mich., Jan. 7, 1878.
Mr. J. T. Cobb, Sec. Mich. S. G.:

WORTHY BRO.—At the last annual meeting of the Ingham County Grange, No. 14, R. E. Trowbridge was elected Master, P. O. Lansing; O. F. Miller, Secretary, P. O. Eden. Fraternally,
O. F. MILLER, Sec'y.

OAKLAND POMONA GRANGE, No. 5.
P. of H. will hold their next meeting in Grange Hall at Farmington, on Tuesday, Feb. 5th, at 1 o'clock. All 4th degree members are solicited to attend.
JOSEPH JACKSON, Sec'y.

Ladies' Department.

CUSTER.

Far across the western prairie,
Toward the glorious setting sun,
Where the red man roams in freedom
And his treacherous deeds are done
They have left our gallant Custer,
Him, we followed long ago,
When our country was in danger
From foul treason black and low.

Years have passed, but we remember
Well, the charges then we made,
And the sacrifices called for
In our Michigan brigade.
None were braver, none were truer
In that long list of the brave
Than Ferry, Weber, Granger, Brewer,
Who died their flag to save.

And a host of other worthies
From the ranks of the brigade,
Passed with them across the river
Where their banners never fade;
And their general's gone to meet them!
Standing on the other shore,
We shall hear his voice commanding,
See his tall form nevermore.

But when memory shall wander
Backward to our old Headquarters
We'll remember Brandy Station,
Gettysburg, and Falling Waters,
And wherever there shall muster
Wolverines in army blue
They will drop a tear for Custer
Our boy General, tried and true.
Grand Rapids, Jan. 20. H. H. ROGERS.

Benefits of the Grange to Farmers' Wives.

It has been said that the originators of the Grange, "built better than they knew," when they laid the foundation of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. They surely built much better than they knew, when they make farmers' wives, colaborers and equals in the work of the Order with their Husbands, Fathers and Brothers; thereby placing the staff in their own hands, that shall enable them to rise to a higher and more useful life. I have seen it stated that the percentage of insanity is greater among farmers' wives than among the females of any other calling in life. If this is true; why is it so? In years gone by the wives of a majority of our farmers have led a sort of treadmill life that has benumbed their intellectual faculties, and made them too much mere machines whose aims and objects have been too groveling and mercenary.

It takes a good degree of intelligence, prudence, forethought, and industry to make a successful house-keeper; but if our thoughts never rise above the daily routine of preparing three meals per day, and the thousand other duties unavoidable in a well ordered home, we lose half the enjoyments of this life, and cheat ourselves and the world around us of our rights.

The Grange meetings are just what we need to break up this endless chain of routine that has been so long crushing the life and spirits of our sisters, making our calling one to be looked down upon as a sort of degradation.

Just here let me relate some incidents told me by persons present at the time they took place. A young Miss was on her way to attend a Sabbath School picnic held at one of our beautiful lakes. She was at the time riding in a farmer's wagon, and as she came opposite a man following his plow, she exclaimed! Oh, what a degraded life to be obliged to follow a plow in this broiling sun all day. Why it is dreadful to think of. Let us hope that upon that subject at least, Age will bring more wisdom.

Another incident was related me as transpiring in the office of one of our city physicians. A farmer's daughter was asked if she had attended the Grange picnic held that day at the fair ground. She answered. Oh no! no one that amounts to any thing goes to a Grange picnic; no one but farmers; and the Grangers are the most dowdyish looking set you ever saw.

She was born and raised on a farm; never spent six months of her life any where else. Now I ask you, was she properly taught at home, to look with such scorn on the profession that furnished her daily bread. I relate these incidents to show the importance of our educating our sons and daughters to think our life work is truly ennobling, and if we only "act well our part there all the honor lies." That the Grange is calculated to be of untold benefit in this work, is not to be gainsayed—but will it accomplish this work if we are lax in our attendance upon its meeting? If we

take no part in making it what it should be, viz: an educator upon all subjects that are of interest to farmers.

We can easily so arrange our household duties that Grange day shall be one of less labor than some of the others, so as not to have excessive fatigue for an excuse to remain at home, and we shall find the more regularly we attend, the more interest and confidence we have in its final success. The Grange is just what its members make it, and how long would it take for it to prove a grand failure if all its members only attended its meetings often enough to pay their dues.

We can attain success in no undertaking if we do not bring into it zeal, faithfulness, and perseverance. When you ask after the mother of a household and are told—she never goes anywhere, you may be sure (if by chance you see her) to find her care-worn, aged beyond her years, and inclined to low spirits; while on the other hand if a mother occasionally drops her cares with her every day garments, dons her best apparel, and goes forth to meet the world, she will look more upon the bright side of life, have better general health, and will make a more cheerful home. If farmers' wives would all try this panacea, statistics would show a decided falling off of the percentage of insanity in the next decade. We need the friction of mind with mind to call out our best effort, both socially and mentally. Then let me urge upon my sisters, to cling to the privileges and benefits of our Order, as to blessings only measured by our capacity to enjoy. W. S.

Take Care of Yourselves.

Almost every paper that comes to our homes has a household department, and it is very beneficial to most housekeepers, especially when it contains useful and essential hints, and helps.

When this column assumes a sort of practical talk, it inspires new ideas, and calls our attention to a common-sense way of doing things. Many housekeepers go on in the same old way year after year in the same routine, without ever thinking of any mode of escape. But when some one shows us how absurd it is—how unhealthy certain indigestible articles of food are we have cooked so many times, we are willing to change our course.

How many women, who are trying to make the most of life, have come to the front and are writing out their experiences in managing the affairs of everyday life. They have learned an easier and better way, and their hearts go out in sympathy for others, who have not yet learned their lesson.

Too many are wearing themselves out unnecessarily, and unselfishly, without any real sense of the beauty and glory of life. Much that we do is called self-sacrifice, when in fact it is not, only doing what might better be left undone. It is all right to lay aside our selfishness, and do those things that will benefit our family or our neighbors; but it is all wrong to wear ourselves out prematurely and without the least necessity of so doing.

The secret of good living is to take care of ourselves. Don't go from one piece of work to another until, as you say and feel, you are ready to "drop down." When you have one of those terrible head-aches, to which you are subject, don't go into the kitchen and make indigestible pies, or dough-nuts, or puddings, just because you think the dinner table will seem incomplete without them. If you are having slight chills, don't try to keep up and do a little more. Take care of yourself in time. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

My nearest neighbor and most intimate friend has been one of the sort that wanted to do a "little more." She had been having chills, and yet insisted on doing part of the ironing with her daughter. One disease set in after another, and to-day she is on her dying bed, with that terrible disease, consumption; all because she did not take care of herself in time.

If some member of the family is sick, and you have been kept awake night after night watching over them, while they are comfortable and sleeping, make that your rest-time instead of trying to see how much work you can do. Lie down on the lounge and take a nap, or, if you cannot sleep, close your eyes to all around you, and be determined not to think of, or see, the work you imagine ought to be done. It is wrong to violate the laws of nature, and when we

do violate them, we pay for it with more or less suffering.

I have heard more than one woman say, "I cannot trust my baking to hired help, my husband is so particular about his food." There may come a time when your hands will cease to perform their work, and your particular husband will be obliged to do without your society and elaborate cooking in his home.

Don't make such a drudge of yourself that your husband and children will be ashamed of you because you neglect to keep up your care of a tidy appearance in your home circle, or that you have not time to improve your mind, and when your children come to you for information upon subjects with which you ought to be familiar, say "I don't know," and as they turn from you with a disappointed look, think to themselves, "Mother don't know much."

There is no necessity of laying aside books and music, or any other accomplishment in which you took so much delight, and which cost you so much time and money. They would add to the pleasantness of your home, and your children would not be so ready to go out to spend their evenings in questionable society and cause you so many heartaches.

Once upon a time a mother placed her Latin book over her work table, and while her hands were busy with work she studied the lessons in it in order that she might keep in advance of her boys in assisting them in their preparation for college, and in after years she was rewarded and her heart cheered as she beheld them honored members of society, and occupying positions of trust. We may not all study Latin, but we can read and study other interesting matter so as to impart knowledge to those under our care, instead of cooking so much rich food, trying every new recipe we come across, or new kind of pickle to pervert the appetite, destroy our digestion and dwarf our minds. We can gather gems of thought wherewith to build up a noble, pure life, and gain strength to do our duty to others. We can strew flowers of good deeds all along our pathway, and the world will be the better for our having lived in it. Be good to yourselves and you will be good to others. Take care of the body, the temple of the soul. MYRA.

Betsy Goes to Lansing to Attend the State Grange.

Monday, Dec. 10th.—Had to drive to hall, six miles out of my way, to get books and papers; hunt half an hour, and finally find them in my pocket.—Reach the cars at 10:15; take fast train, that goes through without stopping, (except at stations, cross-roads and wood piles). Gets three kinds of ride for half fare: up and down, sidewise and straight ahead; reach Lansing 2:30 p. m., and take 'buss for Lansing House.

Being of same family, get rooms adjoining M. M., (opening together); wash, brush, make ourself pretty and go to supper.

7 p. m.—Go out to walk, and see the city by gas light; take the gee side of the street; find every other door a drug store, the rest jewelry, interspersed with two shoe stores. Cross over to the *hau* side and found more drug stores, with two and one-half dry goods; called at one of the dry goods stores to make a small purchase. Left D. and M. outside, and one of the proprietors, thinking they would bear watching, walks out; found M. sitting on a dry goods box, telling a long yarn, and trying to freeze Mr. Drygoods man out.

It must be very sickly in Lansing; would advise sending none but healthy men to our Legislature on account of the drug stores.

Back to the hotel; report and go to bed, but not to sleep! Oh no; too much strain on the nervous system.

Tuesday Morning, — $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M.—"Breakfast!" Come aint you ever going to get ready? Wish they would go away; this having to comb hair and get into one's best clothes before breakfast—how can I endure it a whole week.

Well—feel better, guess that cup of coffee and weak cow's milk is bracing. Now for the hall; wonder if I shall shake and forget the pass-word. Inside the gate. Prayer by Rev. Salmon Steele. Hark! Oh hear, so sweet and clear, the choir—Kelsey's—from Calhoun County. Kelsey, nice looking, whiskered and genteel; Mrs. K., sweet;—Smith and wife—all good.

Master J. J. Woodman opened the Grange just as nice as ever; has a cold

on his lungs; tough for him, but he says he has an iron constitution.

Com. on Credentials. Mrs. M. called; warn't she a little scared to have to walk up to that table in front—guess Betsy would have been. Seems to me I hear that little mallet come down, so if you want to know the rest, take the GRANGE VISITOR, you can learn more than even Betsy knows.

Worthy Sisters, I greet you and propose to lend my countenance to this department on these grounds. Sisters will say: "If that Mrs. T. T. M. can contribute anybody can." Don't you think Brother Cobb a little partial to the Sisters, to give them so much space in the VISITOR? Wish he would give the Husbandman just the same; would we not look innocent while they were reading our columns first?

If this overflow of wisdom isn't wasted, I may tell you of Solomon's Temple Grange, for we have concentrated wisdom as well as that which overflows and is wasted. T. T. M.,

Which means: Talk too much.

BRO. COBB.—If you think this article will wash, and I find it hanging on your line, I will try again, BETSEY.

DEXTER GRANGE, No. 351,
DEXTER, Jan. 15th, 1878.

Worthy Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I noticed an article in the Grange VISITOR, that the Ladies' department would be discontinued if the Sisters were not more interested. I fully appreciate your kindness in giving the Sisters an opportunity to council and advise with each other as in their home circle, but have excused myself from the fact that I had rather read what some one else has written than write myself. If the few words I shall say in relation to sustaining the department assigned us, are worth publishing please do so. Now we often ask each other what can we do to increase the interest of the Grange. As one of the principles of the Order is progress, we must not sit down with our hands folded, waiting for some one that can write better, or say something a little smoother. We may be disappointed. Therefore, I think we ought not to hesitate, but be more diligent, and not wait one for the other so much, and then the Grange would be more interesting, and have a fuller attendance. It opens up a large field for the improvement of the Sisters, and now it is for them to say if they will be benefitted or not. Formerly, the farmers were some what isolated and did not have the present privilege of the Grange; we ought to feel thankful for its organization, as now we can enjoy rich, social, intellectual feasts if we but will. Now Sisters let us try and do what we can for the Ladies' Department.

Fraternally,
MRS. M. D. BRUEN.

Worthy Secretary:

Some of the ladies having noticed that the department that you have so kindly set apart for them has been somewhat neglected of late, resolved, when at the State Grange to furnish contributions. Now it is in accordance with this promise that I begin this my first contribution to the VISITOR. I begin not so much with the hope of saying anything that may be interesting, as of arousing others to lend their aid, and thus make our department of greater interest.

Perhaps it would not be out of place to say a word right here concerning the last meeting of our State Grange.

It seemed to me to be a perfect success, and as far as I could see every officer was in the right place. Each one in fact seemed to be especially qualified for the position he occupied. They command the respect and have the confidence of the entire Order. And the Grange itself was composed of members of no mean talents, indeed it was remarked by some not members of the Order, that they seldom saw so intelligent a body of people convened together. With such officers and such members what could hinder its success.

There one gets more vigor and more animation and catches the spirit of enthusiasm that seems to pervade the whole body. There it is easy to see

that a society is nothing more or less than what its members make it. In our State Grange every one was full of life and animation, and as a consequence it was a grand success as I have said before. But in many Subordinate Granges this vigor does not exist, and they are of a necessity dull and not what they should be.

Some of the brothers said that we might lose this enthusiasm when we returned home; but why can we not take it home with us and impart it to our brothers and sisters there, and thus it seems to me that not only those who attend the State Grange, but even those that stay at home may be greatly benefitted by these meetings.

I wish that every true farmer could be induced to join us, and if there should be perfect harmony and good feeling who could predict the great good yet to be accomplished by our noble Order, so strong in its infancy. All do not regard farming in its true light.

Many, I fear, even consider it a drudgery, but it is a profession, and one that ought to be placed among the foremost, for it includes within its embrace all others.

We are Chemists and Botanists on the grandest scale, and our extensive fields have been given us in which to make our experiments.

Indeed for farming to be regarded as the noblest, the most attractive, as well as the most useful of all professions is but for us to consider the true position in which nature has placed us.

Again an occupation sanctioned and commanded by the Almighty to our first parents must be an honorable one, though it may cause sweat of the brow. The early patriarchs were husbandmen. From the earliest ages of the world the productions of the earth have afforded subsistence for man, not spontaneous but by toil and labor like Elisha of old, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen when called by Elijah to be a prophet of the Lord. To come down to our own times, we might speak of a vast army who have considered it honorable to be tillers of the soil like Washington and Webster and a thousand others whose names will be handed down with veneration to posterity.

And now Sisters, let us all strive as far as it lies in our power not only to render our homes so pleasant and attractive that our sons and daughters will not wish to exchange them for city homes, but also to infuse new life into our several Granges and to bring about unity and good fellowship, for in this manner we will be able to accomplish untold good to our noble Order.

Fraternally,

C. L. SCHURTZ.

Is the Grange about to Die?

(From The Star of Progress, paper of Farmington Grange, No. 267.)

Several of the surrounding Subordinate Granges have gone where the woodbine wineth. Our own attendance, two years ago, was often 80, now it is seldom 40. It is said that when superfluous branches decay it is for the good of the tree. I confess I am too selfish a branch to want to die for the good of the tree; and besides if too many branches die, the tree will die also. And that is just what the enemies of the Grange want. It is a pity that so many merchants, mechanics, and even farmers entertain the belief that the hard times are due to the Grange. They take a short cut to arrive at this conclusion, and say, "before the Grange the times were good, now they are bad."

That argument is as sound as the boy's was to prove that the excessive rainy weather we had a few years ago was caused by the Northville bells. No matter how mistaken the argument is, it is still a great disadvantage to us that our neighbors should think that the

Grange is the cause of their financial disasters. Some, who are not murderers at heart have said they wished every Granger was dead—and we make no efforts to disabuse them of their false impressions.

We have not, ourselves, searched very diligently for the true cause of the widespread bankruptcy and ruin that afflict the whole country, but especially the west. We have feared it would involve the tabooed subject of politics; but we begin to see that it is not so much a question of politics as it is a question of life and death—a question of life or death, not only for the Grange, but for the industries and the liberties of the American people.

The N. Y. Herald says the Grange is already dead. Bear with me while I quote what the Herald says of the Grange and of the West. "The West has long shown itself destitute of honor or gratitude, and almost of conscience, or common sense. The Granger project so called is a striking example.

The greenback repudiation project and the Granger project having come to naught, and being utterly dead, the same irrepressible dishonesty comes up in another form." Whew! Lets take a long breath now, honest or dishonest.

The Herald says the Grange is dead, but the way that Herald pig squealed, it must have been a live dog that bit his ear.

Patrons have wisely determined that the Grange shall not be made into a machine for designing politicians to run; but does that mean that we shall tie our hands behind our backs, so that the Herald man can have a better chance to throw mud into our eyes? Does it mean that we shall remain silent while a government officer conspires with Wall street gamblers to rob us of our rights and our liberties?

What is it that has crippled industry, discouraged enterprise and turned the useful worker into a degerous tramp? When we can answer that question then we can answer this other question: What is it that threatens the life of the Grange?

There are local causes that affect some Subordinate Granges.

Distance from our County Grange store is against the Farmington Grange. But we should make the greater effort. It will be a poor showing for the patrons of Oakland County, if they do not make their Grange store a grand success. All that is needed is a determination on the part of the members to make it so.

Because the Grange has not accomplished all that we desired, shall we abandon it to the tender mercies of its enemies? How deeply our brothers and sisters feel the loss who are prevented by sickness from attending our meetings.

For one I will do all that I can that our Grange may live and prosper, and then if it must die, I will not join its enemies to treat its memory with derision and scorn; but, as I cherish the memory of the beloved dead, so will I cherish the memory of our Grange.

G. R.

Receipt for Corn Bread.

One pint of sweet milk; one of sour; one quart of corn meal; one pint of flour; cup of molasses; one teaspoonful each of soda, ginger and salt. I use Graham flour or fine middlings, sometimes. Bake an hour or so. The same is good steamed an hour and then baked till a light brown.

"Raised Corn Bread."—One quart of corn meal; one pint of fine middlings; tablespoonful of salt; cup of molasses. Wet a little thicker than Johnny Cake with sweet milk or water, then add half a bowlful of salt rising emtings; stir thoroughly and set to rise. When raised enough, which will be when it cracks open after it raises a little, bake two or three hours.

T. T. M.

ONE of Webster's stories Peter Harvey used often to repeat thus: "Webster and Jeremiah Mason were driving the circuit together in the latter's chaise. It was Sunday; they thought they would make a call on the Shakers: this was at Enfield. Friend Dyer told Mr. Mason, 'We cannot admit thee on the Sabbath.' Mason used earnest emphasis in his speech at that early day. The colloquy failed to get them in, Mason angrily said, 'Do you know who I am?' 'Nay,' said the Shaker, 'but judging from thy size

and thy profanity, I take thee to be Jeremiah Mason."

—Level boot heels and a light heart always go together.

Communications.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
WOODBRIDGE GRANGE, No. 183,
January 11th, 1878.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

Enclosed you will find report and dues for the quarter ending December 31st, 1877, also election report for the year A. D. 1878. Our Grange is slowly laying the foundation for a permanent branch of this Order. Our meetings are worked with dignity, and a business spirit is manifested everywhere, which gives great encouragement to both officers and members. Master Woodman wisely suggests the use of the pruning knife, in removing dead branches, but to be sure that they are dead first. We have used the knife but sparingly, fearing that we might injure other branches although now apparently useless, yet may, under the healthful influence of a bright sun and spring showers, spring into newness of life, and with proper care by the true Husbandman, bear fruit in abundance. For the present we place such on the suspended list. Our ears are ever open to hear their signal at the door, where they are sure to meet a kind and fraternal greeting, for there are many that are unquestionably true Patrons who have only absented themselves for some real or imaginary wrong, that is best righted with full membership within our halls. But outward signs of decay are not always sure of ruin and loss of a Brother, for there is often a sound core, and these little spots of decay will, with judicious treatment, sooner or later slough off, and we then have a good and worthy member, *cutis serica dermisa*.

The hopes of Patrons are brightening, and our meetings are worked with a spirit of co-operation, which is one of the fundamental principles of our institution. We do not have discussions on topics of farm management to that extent that we hope to, but are improving in that direction and hope to see the day when, by our efforts, farmers will see the importance of using more brain and less muscle.

Our Lecturer, Bro. William Bryan, often addresses us on various subjects of interest to Patrons generally—Serfdom, Finance, and our School System, being some of his favorite topics. Patrons every where should speak and act promptly, and for a purpose. We should not be hampered on questions of so much interest to us.

I append the names of ten subscribers for the VISITOR; I feel very much pleased with the change, and think it must meet with general approval; although the sheet is yet small, the truth it contains is mighty and must prevail.

Fraternally yours,
M. H. HILLYARD, Sec'y.

CHURCH CORNERS, HILLSDALE CO., }
January 20th, 1878. }

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I see by the VISITOR of Jan. 15th, that the Worthy Master of the State Grange says, he was requested to explain the following rule in the Digest, and defines who may install officers in Subordinate and Pomona Granges:

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

Brother Woodman explains the above rule by saying: "Any Master or Past Master of a Subordinate Grange, or Fifth Degree member, is competent to install the officers of a Subordinate Grange."

And then he takes the same rule and applies it to County Granges, and says: "A voting member or officer of a State Grange in good standing, may install the officers of a County or District Grange."

Now I believe the explanation in reference to Pomona Granges is correct, but the reference to Subordinate Granges is not correct: I do not see how Bro. Woodman can take the rule and say that a Master of a Subordinate Grange that has never taken the Fifth Degree is competent to install, then take the same rule, and say they must be a voting member or officer of a State Grange who has taken the fifth degree, to install in a Pomona Grange.

Now I believe and claim, no person

is a member of the State Grange 'till he has been elected in a lawful way and has taken the fifth degree. Therefore, no member is competent to install 'till they have taken the fifth degree or is a lawful member of the State Grange.

Section 1, of Article III of the By-Laws of Michigan State Grange says who the members of the State Grange shall consist of. Fraternaly yours,
JAS. HUMPHREY, Sec.

WOODBRIDGE GRANGE, No. 183, }
January 16th, 1878. }

Brother J. T. Cobb:

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—I presume that you have expected that Woodbridge Grange, No. 173, would ere this, have surrendered its charter and become a dead Grange. But if you had been with us at our last meeting, Jan. 16th, on the occasion of the installation of our officers, I am inclined to think that you would have changed that opinion and concluded that we were determined to again become (as in days of yore,) a prosperous, active, living Grange.

After the usual routine of business had been concluded, the officers elect were duly installed, and then we had a recess for a half hour or more for social and friendly converse, and last but not least, to partake of the rich and bountiful repast prepared by the skilled hands of the Sisters of Woodbridge Grange, as they well know how to do upon occasions of this kind.

Being again called to order by worthy Master Hewitt, (who seems to be "the right man in the right place," Brother Joel B. Norris, our representative to the State Grange, gave us a highly interesting account of its doings at its last session, and after a few short, pithy speeches from some of the members on the Good of the Order, and taking some subscriptions for the VISITOR by the Secretary, we adjourned at a late hour, all feeling, (I have no doubt), that the future success of 183 is an assured fact.

Fraternally yours,
NATHAN ALVORD.

HASTINGS, Jan. 19th, 1878.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

SIR.—I want to send a few lines to you, as you probably do not hear often from Hastings Grange, No. 50, except on business matters. After my return from Lansing I determined to spare no effort that I was capable of making, to raise Hastings Grange out of the ruts into which she had carelessly run. For all the time that we have been a Grange we have occupied a hall owned by one of our charter members, he being a lawyer and owning a farm just outside of the city. This hall we occupied jointly with the Knights of Pythias. The consequence was, the rent and making such improvements in the hall as the owner wished, absorbed all our money and kept us in debt, and about the only question of debate at our meetings was the question of finance—not of national, but local. It was how to get out of debt and keep out. This disgusted and disheartened many of our members, and they became dormant to such an extent that we barely had members enough to fill the chairs, and our case began to look desperate; so much so that some of the faithful ones began to think that we would have to submit to the ignominy of surrendering our charter.

Under these discouraging circumstances we advertised for our annual election. The first attempt was a failure, for the want of numbers; the second was more successful—we elected our officers, and from that time we commenced business in earnest. In the first place we settled up our hall rent, and divided our property with the Knights.

Last summer we formed a Co-operative Association here, and purchased property on which was a store. In the upper part of the store was room for a hall, and thither we moved our effects, and last Thursday we met there—men and women—and washed and scrubbed and whitewashed and papered, and renovated generally, and when night came we had it looking quite home-like, and last Friday we went there again and installed our officers, after which we enjoyed a bounteous feast. A goodly number were present, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. Many paid up their dues and renewed their vows, and every thing passed off harmoniously.

Now I want to tell you the course that we adopted to draw back our dormant members. It was the same as recommended by the Committee on Dormant Granges at the State Grange.

We invited all who had ever been members of our Grange and offered to take them back into full fellowship if they would pay two quarters back dues. Quite a number availed themselves of the opportunity then and there, and many more will at our next meeting. So you can write Hastings Grange, No. 50, down in the next VISITOR as one of the *live Granges*. What we have done for the VISITOR you will soon be informed by our Secretary.

Believe me, yours fraternally,
PETER CRAMER.

COLDWATER GRANGE, No. 137,
January 21st, 1878.

Worthy Secretary:

On the evening of January 15th, 1878, occurred the installation of officers of No. 137. The services were conducted by Bro. Joseph, of Quincy Grange. The attendance was very large; the hall and also the dwelling of Bro. C. H. Williams (at which our hall is located) was filled to their utmost capacity. The services were impressive and were conducted in good order. I think I may safely say that this was the most interesting meeting ever held by Coldwater Grange. I think we are starting off this year under more flattering prospects than at any previous time. The Master's address I will send you in a few days.

We have a Plaster house nearly completed, and shall want a large quantity. There is a good prospect now of organizing a Pomona Grange in this Co. Please to send a blank application for it.

Fraternally yours,
E. W. TREAT, Sec.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

January 5th, 1878, Bro. Richard E. Wilder, aged 72 years. Bunker Hill Grange, No. 262, in the death of this Brother, ripe in years and rich in faith, has lost a valued member.

Celestia Keith, a charter member of Chesaning Grange, No. 464, wife of our worthy Chairman, M. B. Keith, died Jan. 10th, 1878, at the residence of her Parents in Hillsdale County, aged 28 years.

Fraternally,
O. W. DAMON, Sec'y.

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.

- Ballot Boxes, (hard wood),..... \$2
- Porcelain Ballot Marbles, per hundred, 60
- Blank Book, ledger ruled, for Secretary to keep accounts with members,..... 1 00
- Blank Record Books, (Express paid),..... 1 00
- Order Book, containing 100 Orders on the Treasurer, with stub, well bound,..... 50
- Receipt Book, containing 100 Receipts from Treasurer to Secretary, with stub, well bound,..... 50
- Blank Receipts for dues, per 100, bound,..... 50
- Cushing's Manual,..... 60
- Applications for Membership, per 100,..... 50
- Membership Cards, per 100,..... 50
- Withdrawal Cards, per doz.,..... 25
- Dimits, in envelopes, per doz.,..... 25
- By-Laws of the State and Subordinate Granges, single copies 5c, per doz.,..... 50
- New kind of Singing Books, with music, Single copy 15 cts. per doz.,..... 1 80
- Rituals, single copy,..... 1 50
- " per doz.,..... 1 50
- Blanks for Consolidation of Granges, sent free on application.....
- Blank Applications for Membership in Pomona Granges, furnished free on application.....
- Blank "Articles of Association" for the Incorporation of Subordinate Granges with Copy of Charter, all complete,.... 10
- Patron's Pocket Companion, by J. A. Cramer, Cloth, 60 cts., Morocco with tuck, 1 00
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