

THE

# GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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## THE GRANGE VISITOR,

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J. T. COBB, - - - Manager.

To whom all communications should be addressed, at Schoolcraft, Mich.

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### 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.

### Orchard Cultivation and Pruning.

The following essay was read by S. J. Muffitt, of Reading, before the Farmers' Institute held in Hillsdale County last month:

Fruit growing in our State has become one of the leading industries, and some are already saying the fruit business is being over-done, yet I venture to say, no land of the same amount pays half as well as our orchards that are taken care of. But thousands of dollars have been lost, some years, in this county, by neglecting to take proper care and in setting young apple trees. The soil should be well prepared, by being well-drained and manured, and if there is but one good fence on the farm, have that around the orchard. For setting young trees, dig the hole 18 inches deep and three feet or more in diameter, and then fill with well-rotted manure and the top of the soil; mix well, and set the tree two inches deeper, at least, than it was in the nursery, with the best roots toward the west; and I would have tree-sealers understand that I would not accept of a tree without abundance of good roots. I would have the rows 33 feet apart each way, and a tree ought to have a top-dressing of coarse manure, or straw, every year, from within six inches of the body as far out as the limbs extend. For stocks, I would prefer the Northern Spy, Tallman Sweet, or natural, and then top-graft when about two inches in diameter; as to varieties, Greening, Northern Spy, Canada Red, Baldwin, Jonathan Limbertwig, Twenty One, &c. It is not good policy to try to raise grain of any kind very near any fruit tree; it takes the substance that belongs to the tree, and would be just as bad as grass around the tree. If the ground is kept rich it will be loose and moist, and never suffer from drought.

It is bad practice to plow so close to a tree as to break the roots; a tree often gets too much top, but never too many roots. In regard to branching or heading, three feet is high enough for Greenings, and most other varieties would not be more than two feet. Then the shade of the top always protects the trunk from the sun, and it is handy picking the wind does not affect them, and branches are far less liable to get into the leaning trees. One of the best orchards in this county is very low, so that you can pick half the fruit from a bench not more than four feet high. Nearly \$2,000 worth of apples were picked from this orchard in one season. There are seven or eight acres in the orchard, but the owner took care of his orchard. And yet we see orchards all around us dying for want of proper care; but if men will bring an orchard into bearing and then let it die, it is none of my business. I say go ahead, it gives a better chance to those that do attend to their fruit trees. Tops are often allowed to attain to a size that the roots are unable

to supply with sap. All dead branches and limbs crossing each other should be cut out, and a tree kept so that one can get around it handy to pick the fruit. Good center limbs ought always to be left if you want a strong, healthy tree, and all tall-growing varieties ought to be cut back; no danger but what a tree will get high enough. I think we are beginning to find out that the wind blows in Michigan now and then.

As to pruning, perhaps March and April is the best time. If we wait later other business is on our hands. Better trim in the winter than not at all; and some say that is the best time; June and July is perhaps the worst time. Cut the limbs close with a fine saw and then use a soft wax when the wood is dry and the weather is warm enough. Use wax and it will adhere to the wood until it is healed over. Not one orchard in four in this county has half the care it ought to have. Better neglect some other business. An orchard can not be grown in one, or two years.

### A Very Good Letter to the Grange.

The following paper was read at a special meeting of St. Clair County Grange, No. 12, held at the hall of Grove Grange, Feb. 20th, 1878, and by request of the Grange is sent to the VISITOR for publication:

#### Brother and Sister Patrons:

Being an enthusiastic admirer of the Grange, I am willing to contribute my mite to sustain it. First then we say: Honor to whom honor is due.

That there is more honest principle among people in the country than in the cities, more vice in cities than in the country, will not be denied. As long ago as I can remember, advertisers for apprentices closed with "A boy from the country preferred." Why this preference? Undoubtedly from the fact that smartness alone is not the best qualification for business in life. What then are the necessary requisites for a farmer? We answer, a good, substantial education in all the English branches taught in common schools, with a practical knowledge of agriculture in all its branches.

Our women need the same education in the schools, with the same experience in household affairs. Our agricultural pursuits should not be confined entirely to the raising of crops and stock. Time and money both may be properly spent on the farm in the ornamental line. A single tree—a clump of trees—a hedge—a grove—a nicely kept piece of woodland bordering on a field, may be a source of pleasure and profit to both man and beast.

Our women should receive every encouragement and help for embellishing our homes. Not in painting and needlework, but out-of-door work in the yard and garden. Such as the planting and care of shrubbery, flowers, etc. Woman never looks more lovely than among these things, ar-

ranged with her own skillful hands. The influence upon our children and friends of a well cultivated farm with these surroundings, may be good in our own life, and long after we are dead may cause our name to be held in grateful remembrance. But what relation has this to the Grange? Very much; in fact it is the foundation upon which it stands. If we as Grangers are not made better farmers—better housekeepers—better and more enlightened citizens, the Grange to us will become a blank. But rightly used it will be a power for good: for instance, in one particular, the settlement of our difficulties in the Grange. Farmers very well know how easily a chain is broken when twisted and kinked up. We have had too many kinks in our chain; each one paddling his own canoe, when each taking an oar would have made it pleasant. Let us take out these kinks in our chain. Buy no more patent medicines; employ no more quack doctors; work less hours; read more; cultivate less land and better; never be idle.

It has often been said the idle man's brain is the devil's work-shop. Let us furnish our families with good reading matter,—books and papers. Each farm house should have one agricultural paper. Each Granger's house should have the GRANGE VISITOR and as many other papers as money and time to read them will permit, always remembering that home papers are the best.

LUCIUS BEACH, Master  
Port Huron Grange, No. 480

### What Shall It Be?

A society is just what its members make it by their conduct and their characters. Our members may rest assured that the Grange is not going to make them or advance their interests, but they must make the Grange first, and through that channel advance their interests, socially, intellectually and financially. We have heard a number of our brethren with whom we have conversed, express themselves something like this, "Well, I don't know; the Grange appears to be a good institution; but yet I have never received any benefit from it," "Well why not?" This is generally the answer. "I have not been there for a number of nights, I've been so busy." In this case it may be easily seen that members like this expect the society is going to build them up, and at the same time they are doing nothing to support it by their presence. A member like this can easily see that if all our members acted like him there would be no society at all. If members of an order expect to realize the full benefit of membership, and enjoy the society of their fellow-men, they must be faithful, earnest, diligent workers, doing all they can to forward its interests. An idle member who lacks interest in not attending regularly the meetings of his Grange is a great drawback, and for the welfare of the society had better disconnect himself at once, as such a one does more injury than ten men can do good.—Exchange.

## Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW

### Digest.

The following are the rulings and decisions contained in the Digest recently revised and published by the National Grange: Preserve these numbers for future reference:

#### CHAPTER II.

##### OF THE STATE GRANGE.

- Sec. 1. How it is constituted.  
 Sec. 2. Of its meetings, jurisdiction and powers.  
 Sec. 3. Of its Officers.  
 a. Who are eligible to office.  
 b. Their election and installation.  
 c. Their terms of office.  
 d. Their powers and duty.  
 e. Their title and rank.  
 f. How they may be tried and removed.  
 g. Vacancies.  
 Sec. 4. Finances of the State Grange.

#### SECTION I.

##### HOW THE STATE GRANGE IS CONSTITUTED.

1. Fifteen Subordinate Granges working in a State can apply for authority to organize a State Grange.—*Con., art. viii, sec. 5.*
2. The State Grange is composed of the Masters and Past Masters of Subordinate Granges, and their wives who are Matrons.—*Pream. to Con.*
3. Past Masters of Subordinate Granges and their wives who are Matrons, are *Honorary* members of the State Grange, eligible to office, but not entitled to vote.—*Pream. to Con.*
4. Officers of the State Grange who are not Masters of Subordinate Granges and their wives who are Matrons, are not entitled to vote or to participate in the discussions in the State Grange.—*Decision Court of Appeals, Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.*
5. The office of General Deputy of the State Grange does not, under the laws of the National Grange, make the person so commissioned a member of the State Grange.—*Decision Court of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 164.*
6. When the number of Subordinate Granges in any State becomes so great as to render it necessary, the State Grange may, in such manner as it may determine, reduce its representatives by providing for the election of a certain proportion of those entitled to membership in the State Grange from each county, and the members so chosen shall constitute the voting members of the State Grange; and the wives of those so chosen, if Matrons, shall be voting members of the State Grange.—*Pream. to Con.*

#### SECTION II.

##### OF THE MEETINGS, JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

1. State Granges shall meet annually at such time and place as the Grange shall from year to year determine.—*Const., art. ii, sec. 2.*
2. All the laws of the State Grange must conform to the Constitution and laws of the National Grange.—*Const., art. iii.*
3. No religious or political discussion or action will be tolerated in the Grange.—*Const., art. xi.*
4. The State Grange has no power to suspend a By-Law or Constitutional provision.—*Decision 7.*
5. A State Grange should not interfere with the discipline or action of a Subordinate Grange unless there was manifest injustice in its action, or some irregularity which worked injustice.—*Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.*
6. Each State Grange is authorized to fix the relative distances of Subordinate Organizations from each other.—*Pro. 7th Session, p. 77.*
7. Each State Grange may establish regulations for the government of County and District Granges within its own jurisdiction.—*Pream. to Con.*
8. All communications from the National to a Subordinate Grange must pass through the office of the State Grange to which such Subordinate Grange belongs.—*By-laws, art. xvi.*

#### SECTION III.

##### OF THE OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

- a. Who are Eligible—b. Their Election and Installation.

[See articles under this head in Chap.

I, Sec. 3, which are alike applicable to the officers of the State Grange.]

#### c. Their Terms of Office.

1. Officers of the State Grange hold their offices for the term of two years.—[*Const. art. i, sec. 2.*]

#### d. Their Powers and Duties.

2. The duties of the officers of the State Grange are prescribed by the laws thereof.—[*Const., art. ix.*]
3. It is the duty of all officers to see that the laws of the Order are carried out.—[*Const., art. i, sec. 1.*]
4. If a Master of a Subordinate Grange refuses to obey the By-Laws of his Grange or his conduct is prejudicial to the good of the Order, the Grange may present the fact to the Master of the State Grange, who, after full investigation, may suspend the offending Master until the meeting of the State Grange.—[*Decision 105.*]
5. The Master of a State Grange has no authority to suspend from office any officer of a Subordinate Grange except the Master.—[*Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.*]
6. The Master of a State Grange has power to appoint and fix the compensation of his Deputies, subject to the action of the State Grange.—[*Decis. 96.*]
7. The Master of a State Grange has the undoubted right to forbid the initiation or advancement of a candidate in a Subordinate Grange who is clearly ineligible to membership.—[*Decision Court of Ap., Pro. 9th Ses., p. 202.*]
8. In case satisfactory evidence shall come to the Master of a State Grange, that a Grange has been organized contrary to the laws and usages of the Order, or is working in violation of the same, or is in arrears for two or more quarters, it shall be the duty of the Master to suspend or revoke the charter of such offending Grange, if in his opinion the good of the Order requires such action.—[*By-laws, art. xvii, sec. 1.*]
9. It is especially enjoined on Masters of State Granges to use all diligence in restoring dormant Granges to an active working condition, and in all cases where this is not possible, to cause the revocation of their charters in the manner provided by our usage.—[*Pro. 9th Ses., p. 135.*]
10. The Master shall decide all questions of law and usage arising in the State Grange, or referred to him by any member of the State Grange, or brought by appeal from Masters of Subordinate Granges, subject to an appeal to the Master of the National Grange.—[*By-laws, art. iii, sec. 2.*]
11. The Master can not suspend a Constitutional provision or article in the By-laws.—[*Decision 6.*]
12. In the exemplification of the secret work of the interpretation of the written law of the Order, the decisions of the Master must be respected and obeyed until reversed by decision of the Master of the National or State Grange, or by action of the National or State Grange.—[*Decision 67.*]
13. The Secretary of the State Grange shall pay to the Treasurer of the State Grange all moneys coming into his hands, at least once every thirty days, taking his receipt therefor; and shall report quarterly, to the Secretary of the National Grange, the membership in the State.—[*Cons., art. vii, sec. 3.*]
14. The Secretary of each State Grange shall send to the Secretary of the National Grange two printed copies of the Proceedings of his State Grange as soon as practicable after each annual session, and also copies of the Constitution and By-laws of his State Grange.—[*By-laws, art. 20.*]
15. The Secretary must report quarterly, to the Secretary of the National Grange, the membership in the State.—[*Cons., art. vii, sec. 3.*]
16. The Secretaries of State Granges are instructed, in making their quarterly reports, to return their Granges as follows:

First—Actual working organizations not delinquent to the State Grange in dues for more than two quarters. On these the Treasurer of the State Grange shall pay dues as required by the Constitution.

Second—Granges which have been wound up by consolidation with other organizations. These shall be marked opposite their number on the return with the letter C.

Third—Granges whose charters have been revoked by competent authority. These shall be marked R.

Fourth—Granges which have failed to report to the State Grange for two or more quarters, or have disbanded voluntarily or passed out of existence in other ways than that provided by the

Constitution. This class of Granges shall be classed as dormant Granges, and marked opposite their number with the letter D. On the three last-named classes no dues will be collected by the National Grange; provided, however, that in case any of the Granges marked dormant shall be revived and become working organizations, they shall be reported as such, and dues paid upon the membership.—[*Proc. 9th Ses., p. 134.*]

17. The true interpretation of the foregoing paragraph is that the Secretaries of State Granges in making up their reports to the Secretary of the National Grange are instructed to include in this said fourth class all Granges that have failed to report to the State Grange for two quarters, or have voluntarily disbanded, or have passed out of existence in any other manner than that provided by the Constitution. On this class of Granges no dues shall be collected by the National Grange, thereby requiring State Granges to pay dues for only one quarter after the Granges have ceased to report to them.—[*Pro. 10th Ses., p. 47.*]

18. The Treasurer of each State Grange shall deposit to the credit of the National Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, with some banking or trust company, (to be selected by the Executive Committee,) in quarterly installments, the annual dues of five cents for each member in his State, and forward the receipts for the same to the Treasurer of the National Grange.—[*Cons., art. vii, sec. 4.*]

19. Deputies can give the A. W. to no one except to Masters of new Granges organized by them. Deputies can not try cases of impeachment unless authorized so to do by the Master of the State Grange.—[*Dec. 81, Pro. 8th Ses., pp. 91 and 141.*]

#### e. Their Title and Rank.

[See articles under this head in Chap. I, Sec. 3, which are alike applicable to the officers of the State Grange.]

#### f. How They may be Tried and Removed.

20. Masters of State Granges, and their wives who are Matrons, shall be tried only in the National Grange.—[*Proc. 10th Ses., p. 118.*]

21. Other officers of the State Grange are amenable to the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange in the intervals between the sessions of the State Grange, subject to appeal thereto.—[*Dec. 104.*]

22. When any officer (except the Master) fails or refuses to properly perform the duties of his office he may be suspended or removed, after a fair trial, by vote of the Grange.—[*Dec. 107.*]

#### g. Vacancies.

[See articles under this head in Chap. I, Sec. 3, which are alike applicable to State Grange.]

#### SECTION IV.

##### OF THE FINANCES OF THE STATE GRANGE.

1. The revenues of the State Grange are derived exclusively from fees and dues paid by the Subordinate Granges within its jurisdiction.

First—*Membership fees*, which are the fees paid by Subordinate Granges on all persons initiated during the preceding quarter.

Second—*Quarterly dues*, which are the assessments made on the membership of the Subordinate Granges. The amount of such fees and dues to be paid by the Subordinate Granges, is to be determined by the State Grange.—[*Cons., art. vii, sec. 2.*]

2. Subordinate Granges are exempt from the payment of membership fees to the State Grange on account of Charter members.—[*Dec. 84.*]

3. All fees and dues to the State Grange should be forwarded to the Secretary of the State Grange by the Secretary of the Subordinate Grange at the beginning of each quarter.—[*Cons., art. vi, sec. 2.*]

4. All moneys coming into the hands of the Secretary must be paid over by that officer to the Treasurer of the State Grange, every thirty days.—[*Cons., art. vii, sec. 3.*]

5. All bills must be approved by the Master and countersigned by the Secretary, before they can be paid by the Treasurer.—[*Cons., art. x, sec. 2.*]

6. The State Grange must, through its Treasurer, pay to the National Grange, in quarterly installments, an annual due of five cents for each member.—[*Cons., art. vii, sec. 4.*]

7. State Granges shall date their financial existence three months after the first day of January, first day of April, first day of July, or first day of October, immediately following their organization.—[*By-laws, art. x, sec. 2.*]

## CHAPTER III.

### OF DISTRICT GRANGES.

1. District Granges are composed of two classes of members: First—Masters and Past Masters of Subordinate Granges, and their wives who are Matrons.

Second—Such Fourth-degree members of Subordinate Granges attached to the District Granges as may be elected thereto by the Subordinate Granges to which they belong.—[*Preamble to Constitution.*]

The officers of a District Grange are the same, in name and rank, with the officers in the State Grange.—[*Constitution, art. i, sec. 1.*]

3. District Granges are subject to regulations, to be prescribed by the State Grange to which they belong.—[*Preamble to Constitution.*]

4. There can be only one District Grange in a county.—[*Pream. to Const.*]

5. Dispensations for District Granges issue from the State Grange.—[*Pream. to Const.*]

6. District or County Granges shall have charge of the educational and business interests of the Order in their respective Districts; and shall encourage, strengthen, and aid the Subordinate Granges represented therein.—[*Preamble to Const.*]

7. The officers in the District Granges are chosen annually, at such time as the District Grange may determine.—[*Constitution, art. i, sec. 2.*]

8. Granges in adjoining counties may form District Granges.—[*Proceedings 9th Ses., p. 173.*]

## CHAPTER IV.

### OF THE SUBORDINATE GRANGE.

- Sec. 1. How Constituted.  
 Sec. 2. Of its Charter.  
 a. How procured.  
 b. How vacated.  
 Sec. 3. Of its Meetings, Jurisdiction and Power.  
 Sec. 4. Of Membership.  
 a. Who may be admitted.  
 b. How membership is acquired.  
 c. Incidents of membership, rights and duties.  
 Sec. 5. Revenues of the Subordinate Grange.  
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 b. Their election and installation.  
 c. Their term of office.  
 d. Their rank and title.  
 e. Their powers and duties.  
 f. How they may be tried and removed.  
 g. Vacancies.

#### SECTION I.

##### HOW SUBORDINATE GRANGES ARE CONSTITUTED.

1. Where no State Grange has been organized, subordinate Granges may be established by a Deputy appointed by the Master of the National Grange.—[*Const., art. i, sec. 3.*]

2. Subordinate Granges within the jurisdiction of a State Grange must be organized by the Master of the State Grange, or by some other officer authorized to do so by the Master of the State Grange.—[*Decis. 96.*]

3. Those persons, and those only, who are enrolled as members at the organization of a Grange are called *Charter Members*. Their number shall not be less than nine men and four women, and no more than twenty men and twenty women.—[*Cons., art. viii, sec. 4.*]

4. After a dispensation has been issued, another name can not be substituted for the name of any Charter Member.—[*Decis. 3.*]

5. A person whose name was enrolled and fee paid at the time of the organization, though not then present, may be obligated afterward, in the same manner as other Charter members.—[*Dec. 4.*]

6. The existence of a Subordinate Grange commences at the date of the dispensation.—[*Dec. 1.*]

7. Until dispensation has been received, a Grange has no right to initiate or expel members, to collect or pay over dues, or to transact any business as a Grange. At the time of its organization, committees may be appointed to prepare By-laws, and to secure a room for meetings. Their report should not be made or acted upon until the dispensation has been received.—[*Dec. 2.*]

#### SECTION II.

##### OF THE CHARTER OF A SUBORDINATE GRANGE.

#### a. How Procured.

1. All Charters and Dispensations issue directly from the National Grange.—[*Cons., art. viii, sec. 1.*]
2. Nine men and four women, having

received the four Subordinate Degrees, may receive a Dispensation to organize a Subordinate Grange.—[Cons., art. viii, sec. 2.

3. Applications for Dispensations or Charters shall be made to the Secretary of the National Grange, and be signed by the persons applying for the same, and be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars.—[Cons., art. viii, sec. 3.

4. Where State Granges are organized, Dispensations for the organization of the Subordinate Granges, theretofore issued, must be replaced by Charter from the National Grange without further fee; and thereafter all applications for Charters for Subordinate Granges must pass through the office of the Master of the State Grange, and must be approved by him before they are issued by the National Grange. When so issued, the Charter must pass through the office of the Secretary of the State Grange and receive the signature and official seal of that office.—[Cons., art. viii, sec. 6.

*b. How Vacated.*

5. The Charter of a Subordinate Grange may be suspended or revoked by the Master of the State Grange on satisfactory evidence—

First—That it has been organized contrary to the laws and usages of the Order;

Second—That it is working contrary to the same;

Third—That it is in arrears for two or more quarters.—[By-laws, art. xvii, sec. 1.

6. Granges whose Charters are thus revoked may appeal to the National Grange at its next session for the final action of that body.—[By laws, art. xvii, sec. 2.

7. A Subordinate Grange can appeal from the State Grange to the National Grange.—[Decis. 109.

8. Whenever a Grange is reduced below the minimum number of members required by the Constitution as Charter members, its Charter must be surrendered through the Secretary of the State Grange to the National Grange.—[Decision 90.

9. The Charter of a Grange cannot be surrendered if there is the minimum number required by the Constitution to form a Grange, viz.: nine men and four women, desirous of retaining it.—[Decision 89.

10. A Grange that refuses to provide itself with the necessary regalia is liable to loss of its Charter for violating the law and usage of the Order.—[Decis. 108.

11. When a Charter is revoked, all books, jewels, regalia and seal of the Grange, revert to the National Grange, to be held in trust, and returned upon the restoration of the Charter.—[Decision 91.

12. That the fact that a Grange may have been deprived of the possession of its Charter, by accident, or otherwise than by act of the proper authorities, does not destroy its legal existence or invalidate its acts.—[Dec. Court of Appeals, Pro. 10th Ses., p. 164.

13. When a Charter has been revoked or surrendered, application for its restoration must be made through the Secretary of the State Grange to the National Grange.—[Decis. 92.

14. A new Grange can not be formed in the jurisdiction of a suspended Grange during the time of its suspension.—[Proceedings 8th Ses., pp. 91 and 140.

15. A Grange may vacate its Charter by consolidating with another Grange, in the manner following:

When two Granges wish to consolidate, permission to do so must first be obtained of the Master of the State Grange. One of the Granges must then vote to surrender its Charter and to consolidate with the other; and the other must vote to receive all the members of the surrendering Grange.

A copy of each vote, duly authenticated, must be transmitted to the Secretary of the State Grange, and the surrendered Charter must be returned to the National Grange, through the State Grange, with the fact and date of its surrender and consolidation endorsed thereon, authenticated by the seal and signature of the Secretary of the State Grange.—[By-laws, art. xvi.

LOOK ON THE CHEERFUL SIDE.—It is a great misfortune to have a fretful disposition. It takes the fragrance out of one's life, and leaves only the seeds where a cheerful disposition ought to bloom. The habit of fretting is one that grows rapidly unless it is sternly repressed.

**Reduction of Fees.**

The following letter from the Secretary of the National Grange, will be read with interest, by the members of the Order in this State:

NATIONAL GRANGE, P. O. H., }  
Apalachicola, Fla., Feb. 23, 1878. }  
J. J. WOODMAN, Master of the State Grange of Michigan:

Worthy Brother:—The amendment reducing fees of membership for men to three dollars, and women to one dollar, has been adopted. The second amendment rejected.

Yours, fraternally,  
O. H. KELLEY, Secretary.

Although the Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, yet it will not be a part of the Constitution until so declared by the Master of the National Grange. His proclamation will soon be made, and then candidates can be initiated at the reduced fees.

I congratulate the members of the Order generally, upon this change in our Organic Law. The membership fees before did not seem to be excessive, but candidates could not be reconciled to the discrimination made between charter and initiatory fees. By this amendment, all are brought upon a common level, and the fee made so low, that no farmer can afford to stay out of the Grange, if he consults his own interest.

From the reports which come to me from almost every portion of the State, I am satisfied that the Order is in a prosperous condition, and the membership will be largely increased during the present year.

Farmers who have not identified themselves with the Order, are beginning to see and acknowledge that the only hope for the Agriculturist of this country, is through organized and united interests. The Order has already accomplished much,—its influence for good has been felt, not only in the Grange, the family circle, in the management of the farm, and in the social and business relations of its members, but it has extended to Legislative and Congressional halls; and if the prayers of the thousands of earnest petitioners that have been sent up to the present Congress against the repeal or reduction of the tariff on wool and other agricultural products, are unheeded, as were our petitions to the last Legislature of our own State, it will only necessitate redoubled action on our part. The time for earnest work has come. Let no one be idle or indifferent. Every member should feel that a responsibility rests upon him or her. The Subordinate and County Granges should co-operate together, in one united effort, to strengthen the weak and encourage the faint-hearted. The meetings of the Granges must be made interesting; so that the members will feel that they cannot afford to be absent. The dead branches must be lopped off, and new members added. Then let fraternal unity and harmony accompany our good works, and we shall march proudly on to victory.

STAND by your friends, let come what may, is a good motto. If you don't stand by them you needn't expect them to stand by you. So whether they be friends of high or low degree, in affluence or poverty, stick to them and don't stop to see whether it will pay or whether it will be popular. Whenever you prove traitor and desert those who have stood up for and fought your battles, you will find yourself without any one to congratulate you upon your achievements, or comfort you in an evil hour when misfortunes come thick and fast.

Full of interest—A long note over due.

**Report of the Farm Visiting Committee No. 2.**

To Oakwood Grange, No. 333:

The Committee on Visiting Farms, having performed that duty, offer the following report:

Our first call was at Brother and Sister Palmer's, who were not at home; therefore it will be necessary for some other Committee to visit them, although as far as our observation extended, we found everything in nice shape, wagon and carriage well-housed, their wood well piled and under cover, and, we thought, a trusty dog to watch the premises in their absence.

Our next call was at Brother and Sister Rich's. Sister Rich informed us where we would find stable room for our horses, Brother Rich being out after a load of wood, but he got back just in time to fasten us in his carriage house, but soon relented and opened the door and invited us into the house, where we found a good fire and everything looking cheerful. And by enquiry, we found that his and his father's farm, consisted of 268 acres, 45 acres of timber and 223 improved. Their principal crops are wheat, corn, and clover. Sowing clover after wheat, plant corn, then fallow, and sow wheat and seed to clover. Sixty acres of wheat on the ground—40 of Clawson, 10 Egyptian, and 10 White Amber, all looking well. Twenty acres of this wheat is on clover sod, and 40 sown on summer fallow. Bro. Rich applies manure on fallow ground in the spring and plows in and cross-plows the same for wheat.

Their wheat has averaged for the last five years 20 bushels per acre, this season 15. Wheat crop this year 805 bushels. They raised 45 acres of corn for the last five years has been 50 bushels per acre, last year 80, this year 40 bushels to the acre. They feed most of their corn to stock on the farm.

Their cattle are natives, with the exception of a few good grades. We find their hogs, a cross of Poland and Chester. They have six head of work-horses, one colt; a very fine lot of poultry, about 50 half-blood Cochins, and a few full-blood buff Cochins. Their farm implements and tools were well-housed.

About the hour of 12 we were invited into the dining-room to partake of a sumptuous meal, prepared by Sister Rich alone, which was gotten up in a most superb manner, of which we partook with ravenous appetites.

Their children were apparently all from home, as we did not see them; but should think when at home they must enjoy themselves, surrounded with all the comforts of life, and everything to make home attractive.

After dinner we called on C. W. Rich, and had a very pleasant chat with him for a short time, in regard to farming and other topics. Auntie Rich was not at home, therefore we did not see her, which we regretted very much.

Our next call was on Theron Wilson and family. We found them looking very cozy, and we thought—happy. Their farm consists of 200 acres; 135 improved, the remainder timber, consisting of white oak, burr oak and hickory. Thirty acres of wheat on the ground, six of Clawson, 24 of Egyptian. It looks well. Principal crops, wheat, corn, timothy, and clover; sows timothy and clover after wheat.

They draw manure out in the fall and plow it under in the spring for corn. Wheat, for the past five years, has averaged 18 bush. per acre; three years ago the yield was 30 bush. per acre, last year 15; last year's wheat crop was 560 bushels. Corn crop, 40 bush. per acre for the past five years.

Principal part of the corn crop was fed on the farm. Cattle are native breed. We also noticed a fine lot of poultry—140 Brahmas, 10 Black Cochins. Hogs, Poland and Chester White, cross. There is 30 acres of wheat on the ground, which looks well. Their youngest son, six months old, was at home, but had not fairly made up his mind whether he would go in to raising grain or stick to the dairy business. His farming tools were well housed.

JAMES PHILIPS,  
JOHN BERGER,  
C. Y. RUNYAN,  
Committee.

Hamilton, Feb. 26th, 1878.

*Bro. J. T. Cobb:*

Not having seen anything in the VISITOR from this corner of Van Buren Co., I will pen a few lines. The last session of Van Buren County Grange, No. 13, was held at Porter Centre, Feb. 7th. The different Granges of the county were mostly well represented by wide-awake and enthusiastic Brothers and Sisters, among whom were the W. M. of the State Grange, J. J. Woodman, and his brother, David Woodman, who is Master of our County Grange and one of Van Buren County's best farmers; also Worthy Lecturer J. O. Keith, who is a strong advocate of co-operation. He gave an interesting report of his visits to the different Granges throughout the county; stating that they were never in a more prosperous condition than at the present time. The dead and diseased branches have been pruned out and left the tree healthy and vigorous. He favored us with a short address, in which he stated that those Granges that enjoyed the best advantages for co-operation in buying and selling, were generally the most prosperous. Said he had always believed in co-operation since he was a young man, when he co-operated with a certain young lady who was also a believer in co-operation! On the whole we had a very interesting meeting, in spite of mud and threatening weather, which prevented many from attending.

In the evening, the 4th Degree members present manifested their appreciation of the good work the County Grange was doing by joining our ranks—twelve took the 5th degree. W. M. J. J. Woodman assisted in the ceremony, which was conducted in a beautiful and impressive manner.

The subject of co-operation was discussed at some length during the evening, and steps taken to organize a joint stock company for the purpose of opening a co-operative store in this county; \$450.00 was subscribed, with promises of more when wanted. We were entertained by the brothers and sisters of Porter Grange, No. 23, during the day, and many of us until the next day, as true Patrons know so well how to entertain those thrown upon their hospitality.

I am glad to see the increasing interest manifested in favor of County Granges. I think they are capable of doing a vast amount of good for the Order, and I hope the time is not far distant when every active member of the Subordinate Grange will see the necessity of joining hands with us to help sustain and push on, the grandest movement that ever was made in the interest of the farmer.

Our next meeting will be at Lawrence, on the 14th of March, for the purpose of perfecting our arrangements for the store, and for doing such other business as may come before the Grange. It is hoped that every Patron in this county who is interested in the prosperity of the Order, and can, will be present, and come prepared to give encouragement to the enterprise, both in voice and means. But I am taking up too much space and will close.

Yours, fraternally,  
A FULL-BLOODED GRANGER.  
S. H. Mallory, Ex. Sec'y 355.

Ypsilanti, Feb. 28th, 1878.

*Worthy Brother J. T. Cobb:*

As we understand there is a standing invitation to Patrons to furnish reports to the GRANGE VISITOR, we took a step in that direction Wednesday evening, Feb. 27th. At the regular meeting of Ypsilanti Grange, No. 56, on motion, under the head of "Good of the Order," J. Everet Smith was duly elected to fill the position as reporter of this Grange to your excellent, noble paper. Hoping it will meet your approval, I am,

Yours, H. D. PLATT, Master.

## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, MAR. 15, 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 Applications for Certificate of Dinit.

Blank Plaster Orders.

Blank Certificates of Incorporation.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Lucy,"—your article don't quite fill the bill.

"A friend of the Order,"—Anonymous—rejected.

"S. M. H."—In the main good, but wants boiling down to find a place in the VISITOR.

Resolutions of Summertown Grange will be submitted to Ex. Committee for endorsement before publication.

"J. H. F."—That subject has been sufficiently discussed in former Nos.

"Sister Caroline,"—Must postpone this article a little while, will find room sometime.

"Thos. Mallory"—Will appear in next.

"A. L. Davis,"—"Myra," "M. R." and "E. A. S." Ladies' Department—We are compelled to carry over.

We have just received the Proceedings of the last session of the National Grange, and shall send a copy to the Master of each Grange entitled thereto, as soon as possible.

In regard to Plaster—we received orders last week for 500 tons, and as Day & Taylor receive many orders that are not sent to me at all, we conclude that Michigan Patrons still wisely intend to stand by their friends.

THE communications and correspondence which we have on hand for this number, seem to me very opportune, as I have had no time to devote to my Department. Perhaps it will be quite as well for all concerned if the Departments are without much representation occasionally. We are glad to note that if others have, the Ladies have not been delinquent.

THE Chairman of the Ex. Com. has issued a call for a meeting—its first session, to be held in Lansing, on the evening of the 12th inst.—the day this number of the VISITOR will go to press.

My absence from home to attend the meeting may delay answers to letters.

We shall submit to the Committee the condition of this experiment of issuing the paper as has been done since Jan. 1st, and the question of continuing its semi-monthly issue will be determined.

"I say," said a rough fellow to a fop with conspicuous bow-legs, "I say, don't you have your pantsloons cut with a circular saw?"

CONTENTS OF AN ACRE—An acre contains 4,840 square yards. A square mile contains 640 acres.

## Communications.

Letter from Hon. T. A. Thompson.

PARK HOME, PLAINVIEW, MINN.,  
March 1st, 1878.

J. T. Cobb, Sec'y Mich. State Grange:

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—I gladly avail the VISITOR as a convenient means of communicating with each Subordinate Grange in Michigan. I find over 80 applications for a visit and a lecture.

It will facilitate my ability to arrange the appointments, to know at what time the trains arrive from the different directions, at the place where a meeting is requested. If each person who has written me will state the hour I can arrive, on Postal Card, I shall be able to systematize my tour so as to economize time and travel.

These places are scattered so widely, and yet not far apart, that with the facts requested, I shall be able to arrange nearly as though I lived in the State. It must be clear, that without any knowledge of arrival and departure of trains, it is impossible to intelligently arrange a tour over the southern half of your State; but with it, the task becomes much easier.

I returned on the 23d ult., from a tour of 30 visits, widely scattered over Minnesota. I found the prospects of the Order very encouraging. It has been of vast benefit to the farmers of Minnesota. They came from nearly every State east of the Mississippi river, strangers. In the Grange they became acquainted; a spirit of inquiry awakened; and the Order has been invaluable in its social and intellectual benefits. It pays also, in financial advantages.

I begin a series of visits in Wisconsin, next week; passing across the State in the vicinity of the Green Bay R. R., and zigzagging through various counties down to Janesville and Madison, and then north-west to LaCross, finishing April 5th, and reaching home on the 6th. Then, after a few days, I propose to enter Michigan, and respond to most of the invitations. I cannot comply with all, but I will try to arrange my tour so as to accommodate as well as possible. While I am in Wisconsin will the friends address the necessary information to Plainview, Minn. Fraternaly,

T. A. THOMPSON.

## The Most Valuable Product of the Farm.

HOME, March 4th, 1878.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

From month to month my purpose to write for our VISITOR has failed of result. I will not now waste time with apologies. We find that you get on quite well without me.

In this letter I shall ask the attention of my Grange friends,—both brothers and sisters—to the most valuable of all the products of the farm, to wit: Men and Women. Some of us willingly submit to trouble and expense to improve and care for our domestic animals; we know that our grass, our grain, and our fruit must have proper care or they will heat, mould, rot, decay, and go to waste. We give some attention to the proper development and perfection of our plants and young animals, but how is it with the boys and girls that grow up on the farm? Do we make good, strong, healthy, vigorous, active, useful, intelligent, self-sustaining men and women of them? The State census shows, I believe, that there are 314,000 people in Michigan engaged in agricultural pursuits, and 44,000 in other pursuits. In a brief space the destinies of the State will be controlled by the children that are now growing up on our farms, if they are made intelligent and useful. And where can they

be made so as easily and surely as on the farm?

It is sad to think of our poor-houses and our prisons, and to know that their inmates are constantly increasing; that idlers and loafers are accumulating, and that those who work, and earn, and save, are taxed heavily for their support, and that the tax, unless there is some remedy provided, bids fair to be increased, and become perpetual. It is quite common in agricultural and Grange addresses, to hear advice about the treatment of children in order to make the farm pleasant, and induce them to stay there. We are advised to raise flowers, to furnish music and keep a nice parlor, and to ape as near as possible the customs and the display in cities, where children are petted, pampered, and often spoiled. What is a spoiled child good for on the farm or elsewhere? And why should a farmer's children stay upon the farm, if they are able to do better work elsewhere?

If George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Horace Greely had found every thing pleasant and easy, it is not probable that either would have been of much use, nor is it probable that either would have been heard of or known, if they had remained on the farm. All history teaches, and our own observation should convince us, that simple, plain living, industrious, steady habits, with unflinching courage and determination to meet every obstacle, overcome it, and conquer success, is the way and the only way, to make hardy, useful, valuable men and women. Human indolence would be gratified if all were ease and sun-shine here, but nature has not so decreed. There is work to do, enough for us all, and if each can be learned and induced to do a reasonable share, it will be better and easier for all.

This product of the farm is so important an item in the present and future, that I submit whether it should not receive more consideration and more serious thought. Are we producing a good, genuine, honest article, or are we moving in the direction of effeminacy and weakness, and mixing in a counterfeit and a fraud? Would not our children make better men and women if they were early taught that their real wants are simple, easily supplied, and must be provided ultimately by themselves? Can they not be taught that labor is not necessarily drudgery, especially when they take an interest and pride in it? Would it not be well for parents to consider and judge themselves what their children should be taught at school, and to see that their education is such as to enable them to do whatever it is necessary and proper for them to do, in the least possible time, in the best possible manner, omitting, if necessary, what is deemed more high-sounding and showy, yet of no practical use?

In this brief letter, I can only hint at the subject, and my purpose will be accomplished if what is said shall occasion others to think seriously upon it, and determine whether our present methods can be improved. Is it not a fruitful field for the Grange to cultivate, and would it not be well to commence without delay?

It is frightful to contemplate the amount of idleness, dissipation, intemperance, pauperism, and crime in this beautiful State of ours—where every one who has health can easily earn an honest living, and save for future use—and know that the influences that surround the young are not all calculated to benefit and improve them. If our children are to remain on the farms in Michigan we should desire to make them wiser and better than we are. If they go to settle new States or to transact the business of the country, they must have health, energy, perseverance, courage and vigor, as well as shrewdness and intelligence, to secure success.

Yours, truly,

ALONZO SESSIONS.

HOW TO LAY OFF A SQUARE ACRE OF GROUND—Measure 209 feet on each side, and you will have a square acre, within an inch.

BUSHNELL, Mich., Feb. 22, 1878.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

I am requested to say that Montcalm County Council, P. of H., held their last quarterly meeting at the hall of Ferris Grange, No. 440, on the first Thursday in February, and was well attended. It had been arranged that those from Crystal Grange should meet on the morning of the Council, about two miles south of Crystal village, and go from there in procession. At the hour appointed 16 teams, mostly from Crystal and Bloomer Granges, were on hand, ready to move on the Ferris Grangers and surprise them. As we passed through Crystal one could not help noticing the difficulty with which the merchants affected to smile, and how that smile was changed to a sneer, when told, in answer to their inquiries, that we were going to bury another middle-man—such I believe to be one of the final results of all such meetings. Arriving at the hall, there was much hand-shaking and friendly greeting, by which we were assured that we were welcomed by all. Our horses being cared for, we repaired to the hall for social enjoyment—listened to some excellent music by the members of the several Granges, and as I listened, the words of Dr. Armstrong were brought to mind, when he says—

"There is a charm, a power that sways the breast;

Bids every passion revel or be still;  
Inspires with rage, or all your cares dissolve;  
Can soothe the distraction and almost despair:  
That power is music."

And let me say right here, the greatest means of rendering our Grange meetings attractive and interesting, will be by the introduction of good music and good oratory. There is nothing that will elevate and harmonize our feelings, and cause us to forget the pains of life, as a fine piece of music well executed, or an oration, setting forth the sentiments of the people, in appropriate language. I appeal to you, Brother Patrons, to introduce these civilizing arts, as a means well calculated to harmonize, elevate and refine our moral and social natures.

But I was telling you of our Council. In due time dinner was announced, and we were soon convinced that Ferris had prepared for an emergency, as double the number could have eaten at that table, and not exhausted the delicacies so triumphantly displayed. Dinner over, the Council was called to order by Bro. Yates, of Ferris Grange, the Master being absent, which all very much regretted; but are now convinced that Bro. Divine is not the only man in our county capable of conducting a County Council.

After the usual report of the delegates as to the work and progress of the Order, a motion was made to organize a Pomona Grange, which met with so much opposition that it was ordered to lie upon the table, and a recess taken for supper.

After supper the Lecturer was called upon, who read an article prepared for the occasion, upon which I shall not venture an opinion, leaving it to those who heard it to judge for themselves, of its merits or demerits. Next the motion to organize a Pomona Grange was taken from the table, and discussed at length, but with no better results, and was again consigned to the table, and will undoubtedly be taken up again at our next meeting, to be held at Bloomer Grange hall in May. After an hour and a half devoted to answering queries, the Council closed in due form, and nearly all repaired to the respective homes of the Brothers in Ferris, where they were most hospitably entertained for the remainder of the night.

The question will undoubtedly be asked, What did you accomplish?

Many will answer, Oh, we had a good time! In my judgment, this is not all. In addition to the impetus that the Order has received from the encouraging statements of the condition of the Granges throughout the county, a move has been made which has set the Patrons of the whole county to thinking. The seed has been sown for a Pomona Grange; thought will cause it to germinate, discussion will mature it, and in due time we shall be enabled to enjoy the fruit thereof.

Fraternally,  
A. B. BROWN,  
Crystal Grange, No. 441.

#### Who is to Blame?

Farmers, largely predominating over all other professions and occupations, in numbers as well as in the importance and extent of the results flowing from their business, are scarcely represented in our legislative halls. The great State of Michigan, prominently agricultural, is not represented in either house of Congress by a single agriculturist, and although her Congressmen may be all good and talented men, they are not the representatives of the predominating class of the State which sends them. However well disposed they may be towards agriculturists, they cannot properly represent them because they do not know what their interests are. Having been educated for and having spent their whole lives in other pursuits, it cannot be expected that they should have the same interest in agriculture that farmers have. There is not then a single man in Congress from Michigan that can stand up and advocate any measure which promises to be of advantage to farmers, or oppose one which will militate against their interests. A farmer is occasionally elected to the legislature of our State, but he is so overshadowed and overwhelmed by the host of professional and business men around him, lawyers, bankers, railroad men, commercial men and others, that the influence he can wield in favor of the class he represents is very small indeed. This is not only true in our legislative halls but also of other representative bodies.

Farmers, thanks to the education of the Grange, are beginning to be aware of these facts. They are inclined also to blame the better represented classes for this condition, when a little reflection would convince them that no one is to blame but themselves. Good wide-awake business men will look after their own interests, not only in their own private business, but also in public affairs. They will select and use their influence to elect to office such men as will best subserve their interests, and they expect that if any other class, farmers for instance, wish their interests to be looked to they will do the same. For this they are not to blame. Very few men are so philanthropic as to neglect their own business for the sake of advancing that of others.

In this respect, farmers are confessedly the most negligent of all. Isolated and busily and continuously engaged in their avocation, and as a general thing, not politically ambitious, they are contented to let their political interests go by default. Shrewd and intelligent as they may be in other matters, they allow others, whose interests may be diametrically opposed to theirs, to make nominations for them, and think they have done their duty if they vote straight the ticket nominated for them. They thus become the mere tools and dupes of sharpers and politicians, and after all grow because others did not do for them what they made no effort to do for themselves.

In ancient feudal times, the tillers

of the soil were appurtenances of the land they worked, and were owned by and subject to the will of the Thanes, or lords of the manor, and wore as a badge of their servility a brazen collar, with their own names and the names of their owners engraved thereon.

Would it not be well for many even in this day, who consider themselves shrewd, intelligent and successful tillers of the soil, to ask themselves the question, "Whose serfs are we, and whose collar do we wear?" would they not in many instances, if they gave a good, true, honest answer, be obliged to admit that instead of being free, intelligent men they are politically mere serfs, and that they wear the collars of the neighboring village politician—and he probably a strippling lawyer.

Now, is this condition of things right? Shall farmers continue to give away their birthright, not receiving so much therefor as even a poor mess of pottage? Or shall they not rather shake off their shackles and assert their rights, as free, intelligent, thinking men and see, as they have the abundant power to do, that their rights are respected, not only at the polls but also in the halls of legislation.

GEORGE PRAY,  
Woodard Lake, No. 190.

Ionia, Feb. 12, 1878.

J. T. Cobb:

Enclosed you will find a letter from Bro. H. Shipman, Master of Grange No. 101 Eaton County, asking for information in regard to handling wheat and wool. I have had so many such inquiries and so many letters to write, that I concluded to answer through your valuable paper. This, if you see fit, you can publish for the benefit of the organization generally.

The first question asked is, who to correspond with, or who I would recommend to handle our wheat? In answer, I would say that I would recommend for handling wheat, at Detroit Alex. Lewis & Co., and at Buffalo S. K. Worthington; these men are strictly reliable and will take great pains to get full inspection, and, I will guarantee, get full price, according to the market. I do not recommend, shipping our white wheat east of Detroit, as I think Detroit has more orders for white Michigan wheat than Buffalo or New York. Almost all Eastern millers send their orders for white wheat to Detroit. I may as well answer another question right here. It has been often asked, "Why not flour our wheat at home?" The reason is this, that our white wheat is largely used in New York and the New England States, and all the manufacturing towns have flouring mills, and these mills constitute their flour and feed stores, so that the inhabitants are accommodated with fresh flour in small quantities, for which they pay a price that enables the Eastern millers to pay more for our white wheat in the berry than the millers of our State can pay for it to flour, and make it a success. You can see to-day that the flour market all over the United States is dragging, while the wheat market is buoyant, and every bushel will sell at a remunerative price.

The answer to Bro. Shipman's question in regard to wool would be very short, as he asks for some firm to correspond with; right here I will give the name of the best wool firm I have dealt with, Fenn's Son & Co., Boston, Mass. But this is not all, in the handling of our wool. I have handled more or less wool for 30 years, and I have tried various plans to institute a mode that every man could get his own according to its real worth. I undertook grading wool myself and then massing it, and that was not satisfactory. The next year I put every man's wool in a pile by itself, and had my store-house full of piles, about 30,000 pounds altogether. Manufacturers called to see it; some wanted one kind, some another; it finally was sold to a manufacturer and went to a Boston wool house, and was there sorted by a Boston expert, the man taking such a part as he used in his factory, leaving the balance to be sold to other factories on commission; and this was not a success, as the manufacturer had bought on speculation and sold on commission, taking, of course,

both speculation and commission out of the producer. I next inaugurated my present mode, which has given full satisfaction, at least to myself, and there has been very little complaint; I might say none at all, and that is this: to sack every man's wool in a sack by itself, number each sack and mark each man's name plainly on the sack. Each man's wool in Boston is sorted and inspected by itself, and each man's bill is returned in his own name to the shipping agent, and is as easily settled as two and two make four. The shipper wants to send an invoice with the number of each sack and the name of the man, and still it all passes up to the credit of the agent for a per cent of such a number and such a name. I believe I have been too lengthy in my details, and yet many will not understand so as to proceed to business. Now, if the several counties will organize and elect a sale agent, I will give all the instruction I can on the wool question. (I have a traveling equipage and go from subordinate Granges to sub-Granges, advertise a day when I will be there and have them all deliver their wool on the same day.) When sacked, one man's team will draw several men's wool to the railroad.

Now, in conclusion, whether you ever publish this communication or not, if counties or subordinate Granges desire to have me address them, I will do so, health permitting, but they must expect to pay my railroad expenses and \$5 per day for such services.

All of which is respectfully submitted.  
JOHN B. WELCH,  
Purchasing and Sale Agent.

P. S.—It is admitted, both by Patrons and outside wool growers, that the agriculturists realized \$15,000 more than they otherwise would have done, only for my shipping operations in Ionia County.

The following is the letter referred to:  
John B. Welch, Esq., Ionia, Mich.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—By request of the Patrons of Eaton county, I write you to make inquiry as to who you would recommend as the safest and best man, or men, in Detroit, or elsewhere, for us to make arrangements with to sell our wheat and produce; also what parties can you recommend us to in Boston, or elsewhere, for the purpose of selling our wool? We propose to profit by your advice given at the State Grange, and do our own business, in our own way. We also propose to profit from your long experience in business. Your advice in this matter will be thankfully received. We are making a vigorous effort to get started in a co-operative business direction, and we should have much confidence in any business man or firm that you recommend to us. We shall have another county meeting on the 14th of February, and we should be pleased to hear from you before that time.

H. SHIPMAN,  
Master No. 301.  
Grand Ledge, Eaton Co., Feb. 6.

White Pigeon, Feb. 20th.  
Bro. Cobb, Worthy Secretary:

Not seeing anything in the VISITOR from St. Joseph County Grange, and thinking it might interest some of your readers, I will drop you a few lines in behalf of the County and of Oakwood Grange.

Our last county meeting was held on the second Thursday of February. We had a pleasant meeting, several able discussions, and the experience of a number of brothers from different parts of the county on the use and result of using the different kinds of fertilizers. We also elected an assistant Lecturer, and voted to pay them \$1.50 a day and expenses for their services while visiting subordinate Granges in this county, and we are in hopes they will do quite an amount of good for the small amount it will cost the County Grange.

We would like to overcome the ill-feeling that exists between some of the subordinate Granges and the County Grange. Our County Lecturer has been corresponding with different Granges in order to know when it would be convenient for them to receive a visit from him, and I am sorry to say that one sub-Grange replied, "We would like a visit from you as H. C., but not as Lecturer of the County Grange." This County Grange is willing to forgive and forget, and we are also satisfied that if this same Grange had taken part in our County meetings they would not have been so nearly dead for the last two years; but we will try and benefit them by all means at our command; we must

not tire in well-doing if we do get snubbed once in a while. We are satisfied that when they know more about the doings of the County Grange they will feel more friendly toward it.

Now, a few remarks in regard to Oakwood Grange, No. 333. Our election passed off very quietly, with the best of feeling toward one another, and it was given out that we would have a public installation, and we took considerable pains to invite all our neighbors and their children to attend the installation, and our hall was pretty well filled. When the hour arrived, the house was called to order and Sister Hall was called upon to read the Declaration of Purposes, after which the Worthy Master of Sturgis Grange read his report to the State Grange, he being our delegate from this district. After reading his report, he, with the assistance of Bro. Parker, Past Master of Sturgis Grange, installed our officers. Before recess was declared, a few of our worthy sisters, distributed a bountiful supply of confectionaries among the little folks. The seed sown on this occasion seemed to fall on good ground, and we are now receiving benefits far beyond our expectations. Next Saturday afternoon we are to confer the third degree on 14 good, substantial men and women. For fear I may be trespassing on your valuable time, I will close by saying that the next St. Joseph County Grange will meet on the second Thursday of April at Centreville. We extend a cordial invitation to all who wish to visit us on that occasion.

Yours fraternally,  
C. Y. RUNYAN, Master.

Clarkston, March 5, 1878.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

DEAR SIR—I think perhaps you have never received the returns of our election, which was held on Dec. 15th, 1877. We re-elected our estimable Brother E. Foster as Master, and G. W. King as Secretary; and with two such officers and the experience of the past we look for a year of rich benefits, both socially and intellectually. We have built us a nice brick hall the past summer, and are holding meetings once in two weeks, Saturday evenings. Our hall was dedicated and officers installed by Bro. J. W. Childs, Jan. 17th, 1878.

Some of our outsiders who, three years ago predicted our death and burial inside of three months, opened their eyes in wonder to see over 800 gather in our quiet village and wend their way to Grange Hall about the hour of 7 P. M.; and to see the interest manifested by the company until the "wee sma" hours of morning, would convince any one that if the Grange was dead it left a large number of mourners to say the least, as all that were there will testify. In fact, it was a time long to be remembered. We have resolved to buy our plaster of Day & Taylor, even if Godfrey Bro's offer it to us for nothing. We propose to stand by those that stand by us, and we feel confident that Independence Grange, No. 275, will be able to give a far better account of herself one year from now, than ever before. Pomona Grange No. 5, met with us on the 19th, and 14 accessions were made.

Yours fraternally,  
H. C. PHELPS, Asst. Steward

PLAINVIEW, Minn., Mar. 5, '78.

J. T. Cobb, Secy. Mich. State Grange.

DEAR SIR,—Some ask, "Can we have a public lecture?" others, "Can we have open doors," or "invite in outsiders?" I answer: All can have a public lecture who desire, according to the statement in the W. M's letter in last No. of the VISITOR. But, at each appointment I want to meet the Patrons in private session for instruction and information. The public meeting can occur in the afternoon, and Grange meeting in the evening, or reverse, if desirable. I have received over eighty invitations for meetings in Michigan. It would take over three months to comply, and one each day. Sometimes four from a county. These ought to be condensed into one or two. I ask, those places where a public lecture is decided upon to be reported to me, and it will aid me in arranging appointments. Fraternally,  
T. A. THOMPSON.

## Ladies' Department.

From the Portsmouth Weekly.

## Set Out Trees.

BY MRS. ANNIE G. MARSHALL.

Set out trees! adorn the homestead,  
Make it pleasant all around,  
Let the elms, and oaks and maples,  
With the evergreens abound;  
Let the home be so attractive  
That the boy that is to-day,  
When he shall arrive at manhood  
And in foreign lands will stray  
May turn with longing heart and loving  
To his home these hills among,  
Thinking how the trees are thriving  
Which he helped to plant when young.

Set out the trees! yes, plant an orchard,  
Dear, good farmer, do you know  
Of the wealth there is in fruit trees,  
For the labor you bestow?  
How the apples turn to money,  
With the peaches, plums and pears,  
And the luscious bright-red cherries,—  
All the fruit the orchard bears?  
Little children love the fruit trees,  
How they wait, with what delight,  
For the coming of their blossoms  
In their robes of pink and white.  
Never flowers were half so pretty,  
Never such profusion shown,  
As Dame Nature gives the fruit trees,  
With a glory all their own.

Set out trees! along the highway,  
Plant them thick on either side,  
In the coming of the spring-time  
Every one his part provide,  
Set out walnuts, chestnuts, beeches,  
Where the playful squirrels come:  
In the hemlock, firs and spruces,  
Shall the song-birds find a home:  
Let their branches growing, twining,  
Forming arches o'er the way,  
Shield the horse and screen the rider  
Through the long, hot summer day:  
Thick green leaves the golden sunshine  
Hiding while the dog-star reigns;  
Then when autumn plags them gayly,  
Carpeting the hills and plains.

Set out trees! upon the common,  
Ashes, lindens, poplars, birch;  
Set them out around the schoolhouse,  
Plant them thick about the church:  
Have the children's play-ground shaded,  
And the public walks as well,  
And the joys from these arising  
Coming ages glad will tell.  
These shall live, and grow, and gladden  
While we moulder 'neath their leaves,  
Let us then improve the present,  
Leave behind us priceless trees.

## A Plea for Botany and Chemistry.

The day has long since passed away when an educated farmer was an object of curiosity, and all kinds of romantic surmises were rife because he wasted his talents, and time, on a business that anybody could follow.

During the winter months the average farmer boy was allowed a slight opportunity for an education, and they gained an introduction to what a spread eagle orator called "the three great R's of learning—reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic." Now, with more opportunities, with nothing but the lack of pluck and perseverance to discourage them, our modern farmer girls and boys still cling to their rudiments, though in an advanced state. Our country school curriculum is already full of necessary studies; but as three-fourths of the young farmers of to-day step forth from the district school for a few months in a High School, or the special course of a College, why should they discard the two practical studies of Botany and Chemistry, for Algebra and Rhetoric?

With a knowledge of their future vocation before them, with the rich fields waiting for their labor and learned skill, they puzzle over the relation of x, y and g, or learn some new figure of speech with which to astonish the hearers at the country lyceum.

Surely one whose daily labor leads him among the herbs and grasses, would wish to learn something of their construction, place in nature reference to climate, adaptability for human food, and whether they could be changed by science.

Many a tree has been discarded, or vine destroyed, which, by a slight

understanding of Nature's laws might have been made valuable.

Glancing through an agricultural paper, a letter from a correspondent was seen, who gravely asserted that rye frequently changed to chess, and occasionally wheat. The transformations of Nature are wonderful; but our correspondent must have been one of those to whom not anything is astonishing.

With a slight knowledge of Botany, many a farmer would not be deceived by the worthless frauds imposed upon a too credulous class.

Just now the rage is for Chufas, which some enterprising advertiser has labelled "Ground Almonds," and assures the wondering farmer that from a very small quantity, he can raise enough for not only his own family use, but all the country 'round about. Does he take us for sheep?

Unless the purchaser knows something about Botany, I fear he may be occasionally deceived, and instead of the precious Chufa, Cocoa grass—a Southern pest, or the *Cyperus Phytatodes*, may be carefully planted; fortunately for Michigan farmers, they are troublesome only in the South.

A new grain is brought forth, the different constituents are waiting for the chemist to reveal them; but to the educated farmer even they are locked up, unless some benevolent Dr. Kedzie steps to the front. The farmer might have answered the question himself; but instead of finding qualities, he had spent his time eliminating unknown quantities. He purchases fertilizers, they must be good, the paper or Mr. So and So, said they were. Chemistry would have answered unerringly. Editors who answer correspondents, are nearly buried under showers of iron pyrites or fool's gold; not content with the slow transformation of the treasures of fields into greenbacks, the tillers of the soil propose to dig for hard money. A knowledge of Chemistry would have saved him the suspense of waiting for an answer, much boasting, and greatest of all, his postage stamps.

But says one to whom all this was adduced: "There isn't any use whatever in Chemistry, and my son shall not waste his time over it." But why is it useless, persisted the other? "Cause it is." Unanswerable, surely; but I believe our logical brothers have condemned that phrase as a woman's reason.

Another says, "We cannot all have laboratories in our houses!" Certainly not, but you can have a small collection of the necessary utensils—acids, gases, etc.

The farmer's daughters hardly need this branch as much, though I doubt if it would ever come amiss in the ordinary household duties. Perhaps we should escape with less saleratus in our biscuits, and not as many green papered walls.

Botany would be of incalculable benefit to them in the flower garden, or window gardening. Aside from that, if our mothers gathered herbs to cure the various ills of life, analysis might save some bitter doses. The local names of plants differ with almost every ten miles of distance, a *Lobelia Cardinalis*, or Cardinal flower, was once given to the writer under so many different names, that all idea of the plant was utterly lost: as the recipe was to be sent away and would have to be called for from a druggist, the only way was to wait until the plant blossomed and was analyzed.

But, said a farmer's wife to me, speaking of her daughter who had just begun a course in these two branches: "She will be dissatisfied with farm life." If there is anything

a farmer's daughter needs, it is something to break the monotony, and surely she will take more interest in the farm if it is something more to her than a mere lump of dirt, and if she understands the growth and development of a dandelion, from the tiny-winged seed to the full, glowing flower, it would be more interesting than if the whole poetry and prose were summed up in the one word, "greens."

The Grangers have a motto that "No one is nearer God than the Husbandman." By studying his works are we not drawing nearer him? Appreciating His infinite wisdom and goodness as we see things displayed in every tiny leaf and dew drop. By learning these, are we not drawing from "Nature up to Nature's God?"

MISS ELLIE BROCK,  
Meridian, March 1st, 1878.

## Just a Little Secret.

Dear Editor.—I have a little secret which I wish to whisper to "Aunt Kate," and I don't want all you men to be listening. In the first place, I wish to say that I have been a Patron in principle for more than thirty years. It was taught me by my father, who is eighty years of age, and is a lover of the Grange, though not a member.

Now, I want to talk to Aunt Kate, for I love her for her kind scolding in the January number of the *Visitor*. And that is not all; I always did love old people, ever since I can remember. Now, Auntie, when my husband read to me your kind greeting, I just wanted to take you by the hand and tell you a good many things, and one thing in particular—I wanted to tell you why I do not take as much interest in the Grange as I should like to, under different arrangements.—As I said before, this is a secret, and I don't want the men to hear it; and if I could get you sisters all together I would for once have a good time, and free my mind of a great burden. I love the Grange, I believe in some places it is a wonderful success and a great blessing. In our vicinity I can scarcely say whether it is an evil or a benefit, and yet I hope it is prospering somewhat. But now I approach a delicate subject, and one of which I perhaps ought not to speak, and were it not that I speak for my younger and uncomplaining sisters instead of myself, would be silent. But when I see their rights ignored, and their sense of propriety outraged, it becomes my *privilege*, if not my duty, to speak.

When we organized, and at every election since, there have been men elected to office who, when they stand up to read, have to spell out the words, and then not know how to pronounce them, and at the same time six lady teachers present. Now I do not attend the Grange, I do not care to attend, if I did, I should still keep silent upon this subject. I do not wish to injure the feelings of any; I do not censure those who are unable to read—far be it from me. My husband has often urged me to write for the *Visitor*, and I have often thought I would be pleased to do so, but did not feel as though I could write without truthfully expressing my feelings; and have thought that perhaps they were better unexpressed. Perhaps, too, it will not be any satisfaction to said husband, that I have complied with his request, when he knows the subject which I have chosen; allowing that the editor's sense of propriety does not compel him to lay it aside. Now good bye, Aunt Katie; perhaps, if I should write again, I may have something more pleasant to tell you.

MRS. PATRON.

## Woman and Congress.

Ten thousand of the women of the United States have recently petitioned Congress, through their representatives, for a "Constitutional Amendment," enfranchising woman. Said petition was received, but under circumstances both degrading to the Senate and insulting to the woman, and calls for the stern rebuke of every true patriot. Has it come to this: that our wives, mothers, and sisters, cannot seek redress for the evils which they suffer, by respectful petition, without being made the butt of ridicule, and the subjects of jeers and jokes, by those who fill the places of trust and responsibility in our National Legislature.

Forty Senators presented petitions upon this subject, a few of which were read with dignity and respect—but a large majority of these Senators made them the occasion of funny, and even scurrilous remarks; calling them their "dear constituents," and exhausting all of their wit to make them, and their cause, as odious as possible. Those guilty of this disrespectful treatment, of the women of America, are some whose names we have delighted to honor, viz: Thurman, Conkling, Oglesby, Wadleigh. They seemed to have forgotten that the eyes of the Nation are upon them, and that indignities offered to the women of our country, will not pass unheeded.

The petitions were, upon the motion of Senator Thurman, referred to the Committee on "Public Lands," assigning as a reason, that he wanted the women to have "two strings to their bow."

As an American citizen, it is with a deep sense of shame, that I pen these disgraceful transactions—perpetrated without provocation, upon the noble women of our land. A class who have been, and still are, the greatest sufferers from the evils which infest society, in all its forms. May she not pray for redress of her grievances; and seek relief through constitutional enactments, without adding insult to injury. Such seems to be her reception in the Forty-fifth Congress of the United States. Yet we venture the prediction that her prayers will yet be heard, respectfully, and answered. There is to be a Forty-sixth and seventh Congress, and so on, in the future years—graced by other men than those who can turn to ridicule and contempt, the tears and prayers of women.

The Senator from California, all honor to his name (Sargent,) stood up nobly to vindicate the women so wantonly insulted by eminent U. S. Senators, and has merited the thanks of every true woman in America.—*Women of America*, remain firm and unshaken in your convictions of right. The day of your redemption draweth nigh; and nothing has contributed to such a result more than the disgraceful scenes of the Forty-fifth Congress.

S. S.

Bear Lake, Feb. 8th, 1878.

Chesterfield, Feb. 12, 1878.

Worthy Secretary J. T. Cobb:

As you have so kindly offered a corner of your paper to the ladies, they should show that they appreciate the favor by contributing to its pages from time to time, anything that will interest or be of service to each other and "the Good of the Order."

In all probability our Brother Patrons do not expect much from us, for as a class, they give us the credit of talking a great deal and *doing* very little. Let us disappoint them for once, and *do* our part as well as talk it. For my part, an occasional recipe to help our feast days would not come amiss—*then*, if at no other time, our brothers show how they appreciate our ability. In our Grange the ladies take a very subordinate part; will the Sisters from other Granges tell

us what they do beside listen to the discussions of our Brothers and occasionally join in singing?—not that the discussions lack in interest—but “woman-like” I want my say too. I’ll not tarry longer, knowing it is not fashionable to make long calls the first time. Success to the Ladies’ Department. A. D. R.

Pokagon, Feb. 22d, 1878.

M. T. B., I find your cake very nice to have warm for tea. Will send my receipt for best cheap Sponge Cake—

Take 4 eggs, 2 cups of sugar, 2 cups of flour, ½ cup boiling water, 3 tea-spoonfuls baking powder, a pinch of salt; flavor to taste; beat eggs yolks and sugar together, beat, add flour and baking powder sifted together, lastly, the beaten whites of the eggs stirred lightly in; bake slowly. Brothers like this cake with coffee at Grange feasts. T. T. M.

Correspondence.

Woodward Lake, Ionia Co., Feb. 21, 1878.

Ionia County Grange held its regular monthly meeting on the 19th and 20th insts., at the Orange Grange Hall. It was a very interesting and profitable meeting and well attended. Various questions of interest and importance were discussed with ability and enthusiasm. Extensive arrangements for purchasing almost all kinds of farming implements, directly from manufacturers, on very advantageous terms, were reported by the energetic purchasing agent, J. B. Welch. Our exercises were well varied and enlivened all through by music excellently rendered. We were also entertained in the kindest and most bountiful way by the good people of Orange, their tables being loaded down with all manner of good things, and there was plenty left after the close of our meeting, although we tried to do ample justice to the excellent viands set before us. Above all we were impressed by the very friendly and social bearing of our brethren of Orange; so much so was our worthy brother, Past Master Dewey, of Pewamo, that just as we were about to close and return to our several homes he inquired, anxiously, if the Grange could not devise some way to avert the necessity of going home, as he felt he had been used so well that he would like to stay.

Let me say here, parenthetically, that I consider the advantages, social and educational, growing out of thus bringing in contact farmers of different and remote parts of the county, to be not the least benefit resulting from the County Grange. It gives them an opportunity to see how people out of their own neighborhood live, and what and how they do things in their homes and on their farms. It keeps them, as it were, from being hide-bound, and from believing that the world, so far as any thing of any consequence is concerned, is bounded by their own horizon, and they can not help, if they have their eyes and ears open, but see and hear many things that may be of advantage to them. One enthusiastic brother declared that going through the extensive implement-house of our Worthy Bro. Lewis, of Orange, had learned him enough to more than pay all the trouble and expense the Grange had ever been to him.

Ionia County Grange can be put down as a success in every way. We have now about three hundred wide-awake, enthusiastic members from among the very best in the county, and we believe we are doing a good work in keeping up an interest in the movement, inciting the prosperous Granges to renewed efforts, and in encouraging and elevating the despondent, although we have not many of that kind in this county. Twenty-six members were added to our number at this meeting.

The next meeting will be held at North Plains Grange, on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of March, when “Wool Growing and the Best Manner of Disposing of Wool” will be discussed, and also “The Political Duties of Patrons.” Hon. T. A. Thompson, Past Lecturer of the National Grange is expected to be present and address the meeting. Fraternally,  
GEORGE PRAY, Master.

Buchanan, Mich., Feb. 22.

Worthy Sec.:

Not seeing anything in the VISITOR from Mount Tabor Grange, No. 43, I thought I would pen you a few items. This is one of the live Granges in Berrien County. During the past year a

fine building, costing \$3,000, was erected. It contains an upper and a lower hall. The upper hall is nicely furnished and is used exclusively for Grange purposes; the lower hall is used for public meetings. The entire building is nearly clear from debt.

Very much of the attention of this Grange has been taken up during the past year with the building and furnishing of their hall, but with the present year we start out independently, and propose to discuss such questions as shall tend to the elevation of the Grange and the benefit of its members. I have received three numbers of the VISITOR since it became a semi-monthly, and think it the best Grange paper that I have seen. It ought to go to the family of every Patron. Mount Tabor Grange will increase its circulation as much as possible.

Every Patron should consider the suggestions of Bro. Thomas Mars, in the VISITOR of Feb. 1st, with regard to making our homes beautiful. Outside surroundings are very often an index of what you will find in the house. If we see surrounding a residence, beautiful shade trees, a well-kept lawn, and a profusion of flowers tastefully arranged, we may know that the family have a love for the beautiful, and that their home is always pleasant.

If the objects of the Grange are carried out, a noble work will be accomplished. Co-operation, social intercourse, and the free discussion of all questions that are within the province of the Grange, will surely lift the entire farming-community out of the old rut in which they have so long traveled.

Hoping that the VISITOR may receive the support it deserves.

I am yours, fraternally,  
GEO. W. REESE, Lect.

Silver Lake Grange, No. 624,  
Grand Traverse Co., Mich.,  
Feb. 18, 1878.

Bro. Cobb:

Enclosed please find post office order for \$2.50, for which send the GRANGE VISITOR to W. H. H. BROWNSON, and G. W. HARGRAVES, Monroe Center, and the remaining three copies to my address, to be distributed to worthy members of our Grange who do not feel able to subscribe at present. We took up a collection to pay for the extra numbers. It is small, to be sure, but we are a small Grange. We take a great interest in the VISITOR, and in doing as we have, every family receives a copy, and if every Grange in Michigan would go and do likewise, I think the experiment of issuing the VISITOR semi-monthly would be a decided success.

We have erected a neat and substantial hall 18x30, one story high, and have it finished, except plastering, which we propose to do as soon as spring opens. It is astonishing to see how much more interesting our meetings seem to be and how much more independent and free we feel since we have a home of our own. We wish every Grange in the land would build a hall and be free and independent of all outside influences. I think the Grange would be built up and strengthened to a wonderful extent.

Our monopoly at Traverse City is doing everything in their power to induce farmers to buy land plaster of them,—they claim to sell at actual cost, charging nothing for their time or trouble in handling. Their price is \$6 per ton in bags or \$3.50 in bulk, leaving 25 cents apiece for the bags, on which, of course, they make their profit. Last year they tried the same thing, and we Grangers smiled and bought our plaster of Day & Taylor; this year we laugh right out, and shall buy our plaster of Day & Taylor, thus contributing our mite toward supporting the men that have been the means of breaking the “Ring” and bringing plaster within the reach of all. Fraternally,  
S. A. GARDNER.

Traverse City, Mich.

Saginaw, Feb. 20.

Bro. Cobb:

Find enclosed sixty cents, for which please send two copies of the digest of rulings of the National Grange. While I am about it, I might as well say something about the Granges in this locality. The prospects, just now, look brighter than ever before. Tittabawassee Grange, No. 598, which one year ago was dead, has since been resurrected, and is now doing a thriving business in the way of trade, and it is receiving applications for membership at every meeting.

Hemlock Grange, No 611, which has been dormant for almost a year, has again rallied to the standard. Its members elected their officers on Jan. 28th, had them installed Feb. 11th, and have gone to work in earnest.

Lelia Grange, No. 599, is stemming the tide with perfect success, and is now ordering goods through Bro. Stegeman, of Allegan.

We have but two dormant Granges in the county now that we wish to revive, and I think I am safe in assuring you that these two will be on their feet again within six months, and we have a prospect of organizing three new Granges in this district; so you see the general outlook is encouraging.

Our Pomona Grange held a special meeting at the hall of Birch Run Grange on the 15th inst., at which meeting 24 candidates took the fifth degree and became members of the District Grange, 21 of whom were members of Birch Run Grange, No. 574.

I would like to hear from the Grange that has done better than that (on its way to Pomona), at one time. You can count on Birch Run Grange as being in the front ranks.

Pomona Grange holds its regular meeting at Saginaw City, and its special meetings among the Granges of the district. Fraternally,

J. M. WILFSE,  
Master District Grange, No. 9.

Battle Creek, Feb. 25.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:—

Calhoun County Grange held its annual meeting at Grange Hall, in Marshall, Feb. 14, and elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

- Master.—D. P. Hatch.
- Overseer.—G. R. McKay.
- Lecturer.—B. F. Welch.
- Steward.—C. M. Richardson.
- Asst. Steward.—John Hought.
- Chaplain.—Mrs. E. C. Manchester.
- Sec’y.—H. B. Smith.
- Treasurer.—E. C. Manchester.
- Gate Keeper.—J. Johnson.
- Ceres.—Mrs. B. F. Welch.
- Pomona.—Mrs. H. B. Smith.
- Flora.—Mrs. C. M. Richardson.
- L. A. Steward.—Mrs. J. Johnson.

At the organization of the County Grange, three years ago, there were 13 Granges in the county; 12 have been represented in its councils; four have terminated their existence, and one has never officiated. The friends of the Order think we have passed the “crisis,” and will “hope and persevere.” Fraternally. — B. F. WELCH.

Pittsford, March 8th, 1878.

Worthy Secretary:—Will you please send me for the members of our Grange one car load of plaster to arrive the second week in April. I can get orders for another load from outsiders, some of our members think we should not allow those not members of the Order to have these benefits unless they join the Order. I think the more plaster we sell the better for D. and Taylor, and if they are sustained the better for our Order. Most farmers in this section are convinced that we are getting far the best plaster. One farmer, not a member of the Order tried both kinds last year, and says one ton of ours is worth two of the other; he wants two tons this year; shall I take their orders. Fraternally Yours,  
E. M. CARROLL, Sec’y.

Answer. I think I should, for I find other manufacturers don’t object as they did three years ago to taking orders from Grangers—in fact are making a desperate effort to sell their goods at less than half their old prices.—Ed.

Vermontville, Eaton Co.,

Feb. 14th, 1878.

Worthy Secretary:

I have just returned from attending a meeting of Patrons from various Subordinate Granges of this county, held to-day at Charlotte, and I thought I would send you a brief notice. We met as a County Convention or quarterly meeting about once it three months, thus far at Charlotte, for the purpose of discussing questions pertaining to the Good of the Order throughout our vicinity, and of fraternizing and extending our acquaintance.

Some are opposed to a County Grange, therefore we have not organized in regular form, but have only a President, Secretary, and such Committees as we need from time to time. We think we are accomplishing some good, and hope

to do more of it. We had a pleasant day and meeting, at which Bro. A. P. Green presided, while your correspondent acted as Secretary.

We are trying to co-operate somewhat and unite our interests more financially, have so far worked largely on the social and intellectual features of the Order.

Fraternally, in haste,  
B. E. BENEDICT.

How to Consolidate.

Granges desiring to consolidate will first write to the Secretary of the State Grange, and ascertain if they are square on the books. If all dues have been paid up, the Secretary will furnish the applicants with “consolidation blanks,” which, when properly signed and filled out, must be forwarded to the Worthy Master of the State Grange for his approval. This being obtained, one of the consolidating Granges shall then vote to surrender its charter, and to consolidate with the other; and the other must vote to receive all the members of the surrendering Grange.

A copy of each vote, duly authenticated, must be transmitted to the Secretary of the State Grange, and the surrendered charter must be returned to the National Grange through the office of the Secretary of the State Grange, with the fact and date of its surrender and consolidation endorsed thereon, authenticated by the seal and signature of the Secretary of the State Grange.

ONE of the most important results of the Grange organization is the Grange press. It differs widely from the old agricultural press, and chiefly in this: It does not confine itself to the details of practical husbandry, but treats farmers as men and fellow citizens; it defends the farmers as a class; it asserts their rights; it points out their duties. It does not confine itself to the professional relations of farmers, but covers the whole ground of their civil, social and business relations as well; and it does not confine itself, either, to the farmer and his business relations, but recognizes and assists the wife and children in all their duties and pleasures.—Patron’s Helper.

TO MEASURE CORN IN A CRIB.—This rule will apply to a crib of any size or kind. Two cubic feet of good sound, dry corn in the ear will make a bushel of shelled corn. To get, then, the quantity of shelled corn in a crib of corn in the ear, measure the length, breadth and height of the crib inside of the rail; multiply the length by the breadth, and the product by the height; then divide the product by two, and you have the number of bushels of shelled corn in the crib.

To find the number of bushels of apples, potatoes, etc., in a bin, multiply the length, breadth and thickness together, and this product by 8, and point off one figure in the product for decimals.

THE REAPER, DEATH.

Died of heart disease, Jan. 30th, 1878, after an illness of seven weeks’ duration and much suffering, James Dalzell, in his 76th year, a worthy brother of Grange No. 281. B. E. B.

Bro. Geo. W. Knight, Master of Eaton Rap-Grange, No. 360, of paralysis of the heart, was suddenly called from friends here to the great Grange above. He fell out of his buggy on his way home from Charlotte, and was taken up dead.

In January last, of heart disease, Brother Chanancy Trenchant, a worthy member of South Jefferson Grange, No. 182. The Grange adopted resolutions expressive of their loss, and their sympathy for the bereaved family.

W. R. THOMAS,  
A. T. PARMLER, } Com.  
ANDREW L. DAVIS.

Bro. David Fick, on the 29th of January last, an officer and an active and worthy member of Buchanan Grange, No. 40.

**To Masters and Secretaries of Subordinate Granges:**

I have secured the privilege of appointing Agents for THE AMERICAN HAY TEDDER in this State. Every Secretary of a Grange whose members will be likely to need one or more of these implements, should write me at once. I can send no machines into territory where the local agents are not members of the Order, nor shall I appoint any agent in the locality of any Grange ordering two or more machines. Order two to five TEDDERS, and if you do not need them yourselves, sell them to some one who does, and put the profits into your Grange Treasury. I sold the TEDDER to Mr. Gardner last year.

TERMS CASH, September 1st, promptly.  
ADDRESS AT ONCE,

**A. N. RUSSELL,**  
Burr Oak, Mich.

**N. B.**—This Notice will appear in only two numbers of the VISITOR — Fair Warning! The object of the Manufacturer is to sell his Wares, and if you are not disposed to help yourselves, we shall have to try the old way.

**READ WHAT FARMERS SAY OF IT.**

Will do the work of ten men and do it better.  
**JAMES JOHNSON, Sturgis, Mich.**

I think it is as profitable an implement for the farmer as the mowing machine.  
**W. W. SMITH, Noble, Mich.**

If it were impossible to get another, I would not take \$200.00 for my TEDDER.  
**EMANUEL HIMENBAUGH, Burr Oak, Mich.**

By using the TEDDER last season, I cut, cured and put hay in the barn in fine condition, the same day. Wet weather does not bother a man much if he has an American Tedder.  
**CARL HIMENBAUGH, Bronson, Mich.**

I have used an American Tedder 11 years, and it is nearly as good as when bought.  
**J. H. GARDNER, Centreville, Mich.**

**FOR SALE!**

**50 Swarms Italian Bees,**

In Moveable Comb Hives.

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Is there in the interest of Patrons and others. Will not only sell, but will fill all Orders promptly at Wholesale Price.

**REFERENCES:**

C. L. Whitney, Muskegon,  
Freeman Franklin, Buchanan,  
Thomas Mars, Berrien Center,  
B. F. Pennell, Berrien Springs,  
R. M. Goodwin, Union Pier,  
Henry Chamberlain, William Chamberlain, Three Oaks,  
George Bridgman, of Bridgman,  
Thomas Mason and Wm. J. Nott, St. Joseph.

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**Ingersoll's Ready Mixed Paints.**  
50 per cent Saved.

64 page book of colors, how to paint, select harmonious colors, &c., mailed free on application.

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Kept in the office of the Secretary of the

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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),.....\$1 25
- 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,..... 15
- " 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
- Notice to Delinquent Members, per 100, . . 40

Address, **J. T. COBB,**  
Sec'y MICH. STATE GRANGE,  
**SCHOOLCRAFT, MICH.**

**Beautify Your Homes!!**

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

**\$1.50 WORTH OF FLOWER OR VEGETABLE SEEDS,**

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

**EVERY \$1.00 SENT ME**

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

Selections may be made from any

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

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

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

Address **C. L. WHITNEY,**  
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**SMALL FRUITS A SPECIALTY.**

Norway Spruce, European Larch,  
Scotch and Austrian Pine,  
American Arborvitae, Osage Orange,  
Honey Locust, Raspberries, Strawberries,  
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The Original Wholesale

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227 & 229 WABASH AVENUE,

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- Accordeons,
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- Blank Books,
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- Bleached Cotton,
- Blacking,
- Bluing,
- Boots and Shoes,
- Brushes, Shaving,
- Brushes, Tooth,
- Brushes, Blacking,
- Brushes, Nail,
- Brushes, Hair,
- Brushes, Cloth,
- Brushes, Horse,
- Brussels Net,
- Buttons,
- Bustles,
- Buttons,
- Buckles, Pants,
- Carpet Warp and Yarn,
- Carpets,
- Carpet Binding,
- Carpenters' Rules,
- Caris, Playing,
- Cambrie,
- Cable Cord,
- Cauvass,
- Cassimere,
- Cement, Rubber,
- Chromos,
- Chains, Watch and Neck,
- Chairs, Illustrated List,
- Chambury,
- Checked Shirting,
- Cheviot Shirting,
- Cheese and Cheese Boards,
- Cloths and Cassimeres,
- Clothing,
- Clothes Wringers,
- Cluny Lace,
- Cassimere,
- Clocks, Illustrated List,
- Cotton Batting,
- Cotton Flannel,
- Knitting Cotton,
- Cornetinas,
- Corset Jeans,
- Corsets and Clasps,
- Curtain Laces,
- Coat Binding,
- Combs, Assorted Styles,
- Corduroy,
- Cribbage Boards and Boxes,
- Croquet Sets,
- Crotchet Edging,
- Curtain Laces,
- Curry Combs,
- Cutlery,
- Denims,
- Diaper,
- Diaper Pins,
- Doekines,
- Dominoes,
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- Dress Binding,
- Drilling, Cotton,
- Drilling, Linnen,
- Duckings,
- Edgings and Insertings,
- Elastic Cord and Web,
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- Embroidery Cotton,
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- Farmers' Satin,
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- Flannel, Union Checks,
- Flannel, Shaker,
- Flannel, Wool, Plain,
- Flannel, Wool Twilled,
- Flannel, Wool Flain,
- Flannel, Opera,
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- Frilling,
- Fringes,
- Fringes, Silk and Worsted,
- Furs,
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- Ginghams,
- Gimps,
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- Gloves, Men's and Boys,
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- Handkerchiefs, Gents',
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- Knives, Brass & Porcelain,
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- Pins, Emblem,
- Pins, Emblem, Illustrated List,
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- Quills, White,
- Quills, Colored,
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- Repellents,
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- Rings, Illustrated List,
- Rings, Buttons,
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- Saddles, Illustrated List,
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- Sewing Machines Illustrated List
- Seines,
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- Sheeting White,
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- Shirting, Bleached,
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- Shirts, Checked and Striped,
- Shirts, Over,
- Shirt Bosoms,
- Shirt Studs,
- Shears and Scissors,
- Shawls,
- Shawl Straps,
- Shawl Pins,
- Shawl Pins, Illustrated List
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