

# 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.  
Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft

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

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

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

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

### Rotation of Crops.

BY DR. G. W. UNDERWOOD, OF HILLSDALE.

The subject assigned me,—“The Rotation of Crops, in Farming”—is not a primary idea in agriculture, but is rather a necessity devolved upon him who would be a successful cultivator, and is the result of long continued experiment and uniform human experience.

In England, and on the continent of Europe, it has long been understood among that class who own the sod and cultivate it by the “sweat of the brow” of other men, and not by their own personal labor, that success in husbandry must depend upon giving to the soil in some form what is annually taken away in cultivated crops. In this country, in the older States more particularly, the same great fundamental truth, in all successful farming, is admitted.

The census tables show that the wheat crop of New York, in some counties has fallen in its average so low as seven or eight bushels to the acre where formerly from thirty to forty bushels were produced. Lands once deemed absolutely inexhaustible, have been cropped almost to barrenness. Large sections in the State of Virginia and Maryland, formerly as productive probably as any found on this continent, by a course of culture not guided by a correct knowledge of the science of husbandry, have become utterly unproductive and been abandoned by the original cultivators. A succession of tobacco crops raised by shallow plowing, without artificial manuring, or a proper rotation with other products, exhausted the surface soil and compelled the proprietors to seek fresh fields.

A subsequent, more thorough and intelligent system, by those who became at length the owners of the soil and the laborers upon it, has shown that it was only WITH UNREASONABLE DEMANDS UPON HER RESOURCES, that Mother Earth had refused to comply, for the same lands by deep plowing and a judicious rotation, are now yielding a rich return for the labor and capital invested.

It is not probable that any soil has yet been found of such inexhaustible fertility, that it will stand, without artificial aid the constant draft from year to year, of any one crop—without protest and rebuke, to its unintelligent and unsagacious cultivator.

It was not long since that a farmer of Hillsdale county informed the writer of this essay, (as a quasi apology for the failure of his wheat crop,) that he had come to the conclusion that he must give up the raising of wheat, or resort to the practice of seeding with clover and the use of plaster. The reason for this conclusion doubtless was that his exhausted field had given him to understand this, in most unequivocal language, in its refusal to honor his fourth annual draft on the same field in a crop of wheat. It is not always that the indifferent farmer reasons so correctly as in this in-

stance, as to the cause of his failure; because generous Mother Earth seemingly so reluctant and so unwilling to disappoint her children, that it is only BY DIMINISHED PRODUCTION that she usually acknowledges her diminished resources, and not, as in this instance by an absolute protest.

What then is the fact and the situation as it regards the farmers of Hillsdale county?

The farms of this county have not been cultivated, on an average, at best twenty-five years. Can it be affirmed with truth, that on the whole, these farms are as productive to-day as they were ten years ago? Far from it.—As was stated yesterday, from the platform, that in 1863 Hillsdale county ranked the tenth in the State in the production of cereals, and in 1877 is the fortieth, what other conclusion can we reach, than that our farms, by negligence and unskillful management, by thriftless and “slipshod” ways are being reduced to worthlessness, until other and more resolute men are found to induce more thorough cultivation? Doubtless the practice of the annual products from what so recently was the virgin soil, without though of paying back for that taken off, constitute the sum total of this great agricultural sin and blunder. The desire to secure immediate returns induces superficial culture, and so impoverishes that land which should be firmly held to a systematic course of ever increasing fertility. Do you ask me, how this can be done. So far as the limits of the subject assign me permits me to reply, I answer a proper rotation of crops. But it is plain to be seen, that any system of rotation, practiced upon an already exhausted soil, would fail to prove a remedy. Our farms might be rotated to a lower level than they now occupy. Rotation of crops may delay and defer the dreaded catastrophe, on a soil not already exhausted, but it alone can never rejuvenate and restore it to its pristine fertility. Rotation of crops may be auxiliary and should be, in the great work of restoring the soil, and this is a matter of the deepest concern to the intelligent farmer. He well understands that while he may have gained a knowledge of its necessity, from experience alone, it has for its basis the science of agricultural chemistry.

He may, or he may not, by actual chemical analysis of the soil which refused longer to produce wheat, have ascertained that soil was now destitute of the wheat producing qualities; but the soil itself told him the same story before making his experiment. The exact place which a proper rotation of crops fills in successful agriculture, is the place which foresight and prudence holds in the management of financial affairs,—which never draws its check where it has no deposits and never overdraws it where it has.

The intelligent and prudent financier keeps well in hand, and fully understands the nature and extent of his

cash resources; not more so, however, than the equally intelligent and equally prudent farmer understands the qualities of his soil and what he can do with it. He knows what with rain and sun-shine and God's blessing upon his labors he can produce—the kind of crop that will succeed—and its probable amount. His knowledge may be purely scientific—gained by careful and repeated analysis of his soil, or it may have been gained by actual acquaintance with that hard master, but faithful instructor, experience. If his knowledge be limited to the results of his experience on his own farm, it is easy to see that his labors may not be so successful on another and a differently constituted soil. Hence it is a well-known fact, which many now before me can attest, that in a change of location from a farm situated in what was once heavily timbered lands, with a dark and carboniferous soil, to one situated in those lands known as the “openings,” with a calcareous, or an alluvial soil, good farmers, sagacious and successful cultivators, have not always in their first efforts been as successful in either the one or the other as on their old farms. A man of industry and ordinary intelligence, in a course of years on a certain farm, with a certain kind and variety of soil, comes to know how to handle that farm as he can handle no other not identical in its chemical constituents. Hence no certain and invariable formula, for the rotation of crops on one farm can be given that would be equally good on another; or, if given, would be available in a soil so variable in its chemical qualities, and so suddenly changing from one kind to quite another, (often on the same 40-acres,) as is found in Mich. He may doubtless with advantage resolve that he will never follow one crop with another of the same kind on the same field; but the crop that should succeed; the absolutely best crop for the place and the situation, only the agricultural chemist, with his certain knowledge, or the successful experimenter, with his probable knowledge, can fully determine.

Dr. Miles said that this question covered the whole ground of agriculture. He said that absolute exhaustion of the soil was very rare indeed; that when the soil appeared to be exhausted, a chemical analysis would show the elements necessary to plant life in abundance. He would arrange the rotation of crops so as to get a thorough cultivation of the soil. He thought this order as good as any, corn, turnips, oats, wheat, then two crops of clover in succession. He said the expensive summer-fallow should not be indulged in.

J. R. Muffitt asked which was the best to raise, timothy or clover?

Dr. Miles replied that clover was worth \$24 per acre for manure, and timothy \$9. He said it was the crops that draw most from the soil that were best for the land, are the ones to restore it, that is, those crops are the most valuable for manure. Roots

take a large amount of elements in plant growth from the soil, and are worth \$32 per acre for manure. He urged the practice of a regular rotation of crops.

In reply to Mr. Muffitt, Dr. Miles said that timothy did not draw the same element from the soil as oats.

Joel B. Norris asked if there was any loss of manure by top-dressing in April or May, and Dr. Miles replied that there was not. Draw manure when most convenient and spread it as drawn.

A. G. Baker asked, what crop should precede wheat.

Dr. Miles replied, oats, as they left the soil loose.

#### Fattening a Calf.

A lady correspondent, writing to the *Germantown Telegraph*, gives her method for fattening veal calves without feeding the cream with the milk. The method is nothing new, yet there may be many who never practiced it.

My principal object is to show farmers and others that they can raise or even veal their calves without giving them the new fresh milk from the cow. The best food to fatten a calf, without whole milk, is oil meal, molasses and skimmed milk for the first two weeks, after which a little oat or barley meal may be used. A calf may be made to weigh from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty pounds at four weeks old, never having had any new milk after the cow's milk was good. The oil meal should be scalded and allowed to form a thick mucilage before mixed with the skimmed milk. The molasses may be added directly to the milk, and the whole may be given blood warm. The proper quantity to give a young calf is a tablespoonful of oil meal the same of molasses, divided into three parts for one day's feed, added to the milk. After the first week the amount may be increased, and at the commencement of the third week a spoonful of oil meal and molasses may be given at each feed; a quart of boiling water being turned on the meal over night, and also in the morning, to form a mucilage, and a spoonful of oat or barley meal may be added, but this should be cooked. At present prices the whole will not cost more than a dollar for five weeks, and an early calf of the weight mentioned will bring from ten to twelve dollars.

#### Questions for Discussion in the Grange.

For the present we suggest the following:

1. What crops, raised by the members of the Grange in 1877, paid the best, taking into consideration the time and labor, expended upon them?

2. Should manure be hauled out during the winter? If so, should it be left in heaps or scattered broadcast?

3. Will it pay to use gypsum (land plaster) at the present price, upon our wheat fields?

4. What are the three most paying crops now grown by the members of this Grange, taking into consideration their exhaustive nature and the condition of the soil after the crop is removed?

5. Will it justify a member of the Grange to make improvements on borrowed capital?

"The St. Joseph County Mutual Protection Association against Horse Thieves" has voted to pay \$1,000 for the apprehension and conviction of any person who shall steal a horse from any member of the association.—*Coldwater Reporter*.

Night-caps are a relic of barbarism.

### Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW

#### Bro. T. A. Thompson at Paw Paw.

Brother T. A. Thompson commenced his labors in this State as advertised. By giving a public lecture at the Court House in Paw Paw at 2 o'clock P. M. of the 20 inst. and a lecture to members of the Order, in the Grange Hall in the evening. Both lectures were highly interesting and instructive; and were listened to with marked attention. The universal verdict seemed to be, that every Patron and Farmer should hear him. Patrons give him a cordial welcome and full houses.

#### The Wool Growers' Convention at Kalamazoo.

The following from the *Kalamazoo Gazette* will be read with interest by all the farmers of Michigan.

"The State Wool Growers Convention was in session at the Court House Yesterday. They resolved to do up their wool this season, tag locks and all, and if home buyers refused to pay full price for it, to combine together, and ship in large quantities direct. One such shipment would probably suffice to open their eyes on that question."

As no such proposition was introduced or discussed, it is fair to infer that this reflection on the intelligence of the Convention, is but another attempt to make ridicule of anything attempted by the farmers of the country for the protection of their own interests; but such back-handed hits have ceased to hurt, and our farmers will not be intimidated by them.

The Convention was called for the purpose of considering questions relating to the wool growing interests of the State; and if possible inaugurate a system, by which wool, like other products, should be bought and sold upon its merits. The resolutions passed by the Convention appeared in the last *Visitor*. Similar Conventions should be called in every Wool Growing County in the State; and the work marked out by this Convention perfected and put into general practice.

#### The Tariff Bill.

The bill now pending before Congress seems to have been drawn purely in the interest of speculators and importers, wholly ignoring the rights of the people, and the industrial interests of the great North-west. Its authors are representatives of capitalists of seaboard cities, having no interest or sympathy with the productive industries of the country.

Some idea of the practical operations of this measure, should it become a law, can be inferred from the following extract from the late discussion on the bill in the House:

"Representative Wood, of New York, read a letter from Withington & Co., of Jackson, Mich., in which the firm stated that they required no protective tariff to enable them to compete with foreign manufacturers of steel pitchforks."

"Mr. Conger, of Michigan, arose and announced that Withington & Co., were prison contractors, having their work done at thirty-two cents per day, and asked Mr. Wood if he sought to reduce the working men of America to the level of convict laborers, in order to enable manufacturers

to compete with the pauper labor of Europe."

A glance at the bill reveals the following facts, which should be understood by every farmer: It not only reduces the duty on foreign wool, and woolen goods, but entirely removes it on flour manufactured from wheat, and reduces it to an insignificant sum on all other agricultural products,—thus admitting flour from Canada and other nations free; and all other farm products nearly so. This is "Reciprocity," with the advantages all accruing to the Canadian farmer.

Under the present law, the duties are levied on foreign wool, by placing a specific sum upon each pound imported, called a "Specific Duty," and in addition, a per cent upon the cost of the wool at the "Port of Entry," called an "Ad valorem Duty."

These duties on the different grades of wool are as follows: On clothing wool valued at 32 cents or less per pound, 10 cents a pound, and 11 per cent ad valorem, equal to 12½ cents a pound. The rate fixed in the bill is 8 cents a pound, a decrease of 4½ cts. on a pound.

On clothing wool valued at 32 cts. or over, 12c a pound, and 10 per cent ad valorem; equal to a specific duty of 16½ cents a pound. By the bill the duty is reduced to 10 cents a pound—a reduction of 6½ cents a pound.

On washed clothing wool valued at 32 cents per pound or less, 20 cents a pound, and 22 per cent ad valorem, equal to a special duty of about 31 cts. a pound. The rate fixed upon this grade by the bill is 16 cts. per pound; a decrease of 15 cents a pound.

On washed clothing wool valued at 32 cents or over, 24 cents a pound, and 20 per cent ad valorem, equal to a specific duty of 34½ cents a pound. Twenty cents a pound is the rate fixed in the bill,—a decrease of 14½ cents a pound.

On second clothing wool valued at 32 cents or over, 36 cents a pound and 30 per cent ad valorem, equal to a specific duty of 51½ cents a pound. The proposed rate is 30 cents a pound, a decrease of 21½ cts. per pound.

On combing wool valued at 32 cts. or less, 10 cents a pound, and 11 per cent ad valorem, equal to a specific duty of 13½ cts. per pound. The bill reduces it to 8 cts., a decrease of 5½ cents per pound.

On combing wool valued at 32 cts. or over, 12 cts. a pound, and 10 per cent ad valorem, equal to a specific duty of 15½ cents a pound. The duty fixed by the bill is 10 cents a pound, a decrease of 5½ cts. a pound.

On carpet wool valued at 12 cents or less, the present duty is three cents a pound, and the bill makes it 2½.

Carpet wool valued over 12 cents, the present duty is 6 cents a pound, and the bill makes it 5 cents.

On woolen rags, shoddy, etc., the present duty is 12 cts. a pound; in the bill it is 10 cents.

The average reduction on all of the grades, is 28½ per cent; and on the different grades of clothing wool, about 10½ cts. on each pound.

It is now stated that a substitute for the bill has been proposed, which strikes out the Specific duty, and imposes a straight ad valorem tax of 35 per cent on all grades.

This seems to be an ingenious dodge on the part of the friends of the measure, to silence the opposition of the farmers by deception. Fair as the substitute may seem at first glance, yet a careful examination of it, will satisfy any one that its effects will be more injurious to the Wool Growers and the Government, than the original bill. While it would not very materially change the specific rates in the bill, on the first four grades of clothing wool, or on combing and car-

pet wool, yet the duty on second clothing wool would be decreased 23 per cent from the bill, and 65 per cent lower than the rates in the present law. The duties on shoddy, flocks, etc., which should be prohibitory, would be diminished 21 per cent from the proposed rates fixed in the bill, and 35 per cent from the present law.

It is also evident that a government officer would find it quite as difficult to ascertain the price which importers pay for their wool in foreign countries, as it is for supervisors to find out the amount of money and credits on which some persons should pay taxes; hence the government as well as the people would be swindled. Some idea of the depressing influence upon the market, for agricultural products, which this measure will have if enacted into a law, can be formed from the following statistics:

In 1857, a very similar bill in the interest of free trade, was passed by Congress, and during the first four years of its operations there was exported from the United States, 47,321,422 bushels of wheat, at an average price of \$1.15 per bushel, and 20,478,542 bushels of corn at an average price of 64½ cents per bushel.

During the last four years—1874-5-6 and 7—there has been exported under the present law, which is somewhat protective, 219,485,838 bushels of wheat, at an average price of \$1.25 per bushel, and 183,677,581 bushels of corn at 67½ cents a bushel; and this too, during a period of the greatest financial depression in the history of the government.

What the country needs is legislation to stimulate, and not depress, the productive industries, and give employment to both capital and labor.

Farmers can no longer be deceived in these matters, and should not tamely submit to the passage of the Tariff Bill without putting forth every effort to defeat it. Conventions should be called, and resolutions of condemnation to the odious measure passed.

#### Digest of Laws and Rules.

With this number closes the Laws and Rules of the National Grange. The next number will contain the By Laws of the State Grange at its last session; to be followed with the rulings of the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange.

#### 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 VII.

##### OF THE RITUAL AND DEGREES.

1 The Ritual adopted by the National Grange shall be used in all Subordinate Granges, and any desired alteration in the same must be submitted to, and receive the sanction of, the National Grange.—Cons., art. iv.

2 Persons not members of the Order should not be permitted to obtain or read the ritual.—Decis. 58.

3 The practice of selling Rituals of our Order to any person who may apply for the same is dangerous to our best interests, and should be prohibited.—Pro. 7th Ses., p. 77.

4 Subordinate or State Granges cannot omit or change any part of the Ritual.—Decis. 97.

5 Children can be admitted with their parents to the Grange only when so young as to be unable to understand what may be done or said. Upon this point the Master must be judge.—Decision 82.

6 There are four degrees in the Subordinate Grange, viz:  
First—Laborer (Man); Maid (Woman).

Second—Cultivator (Man); Shepherdess (Woman).

Third—Harvester (Man); Gleaner (Woman).  
Fourth—Husbandman (Man); Matron (Woman).

7 No Grange shall confer more than two degrees on the same person at the same meeting.—Cons., art. viii, sec. 7.

8 Degrees may be conferred at either regular or special meetings. At special meetings called for the purpose of conferring the First, Second, or Third Degree, it is not necessary to open in the Fourth Degree. A Grange may close from any degree in which it has been sitting.—Decis. 9.

9 A Grange can sit in different Degrees during the same meeting.—Decis. 26.

10 A Grange may ballot for a candidate and confer the First Degree upon him at the same meeting.—Decis. 24.

11 A member can not remain in the Grange when it is open in a higher Degree than such a member has taken.—Decis. 52.

12 No vote can be taken in a Subordinate Grange on any question except in the Fourth Degree.—Decis. 11.

13 A Grange may confer Degrees and transact business under Dispensation the same as under a Charter.—Decis. 5.

14 The Fifth Degree can only be conferred in the State, County, or District Grange, when sitting in that Degree.—Decis. 95.

15 All members of the State Grange are entitled, as a matter of right, to the Fifth Degree.—Preamble to Cons.

16 All Fourth-degree members elected by the Subordinate Granges, as provided in the law establishing County or District Granges, are entitled to the Fifth Degree.—Pro. 8th Session, p. 97.

17 There are two Degrees in the National Grange, viz:

Sixth—Flora (Charity), to which all the members of the National Grange are entitled, as a matter of right;

Seventh—Ceres (Faith), to which those members of the National Grange who have served one year therein may be admitted, upon application and election.—Preamble to Constitution.

18 Any Fourth-degree member in good standing is eligible to the higher Degrees in the Grange within whose jurisdiction he may reside.—Cons., art. 1, sec. 2.

19 The Seventh Degree has charge of the secret work of the Order.—Preamble to Cons.

20 Members of the Seventh Degree are honorary members of the National Grange, and are eligible to office therein, but not entitled to vote.—Preamble to Constitution.

21 Members must be attired in the proper regalia of the Order while the Grange is in session. The sash is worn from the right shoulder to the left hip, the pouch in front.—Decision 57.

22 The wearing of the regalia is one of the established usages of the Order, and is obligatory upon all members except when a member claims exemption on account of religious convictions, he may be excused by vote of the Grange.—Pro. 8th Ses. pp. 91 and 142.

23 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.—Dec. 108.

24 The signs of the degrees are never to be given except in the Grange.—Decision 86.

25 In the exemplification of the secret work, 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 State or National Grange, or by action of the State or National Grange.—Decision 67.

26 Officers of Granges should stand when delivering lectures or instructions to candidates.—Decision 116.

27 The burial ceremony is intended only for those who desire to use it. Its use is permissive and not mandatory on the part of the National Grange. Those brothers or Granges who do not wish to use it upon funeral occasions have no right to object to its use by those who do.—Pro. 8th Session, p. 44.

[THE END.]

The grasshopper has at last found his sphere. A Massachusetts man preserves him in mucilage and uses him for bait.

"GRANDMA, why don't you keep a servant any longer?" "Well, you see, my child, I am getting old now and can't take care of one as I used to, you know."

From Elmira Farmers' Club Discussions.

HARRISBURG, Poinsett Co., Ark. }  
April 4th, 1878.

W. A. Armstrong, Secretary Farmers' Club:—

We have a flat, level, rich country. Much ditching is needed. Is there any horse power ditching machine known to your Club? Respectfully,

J. M. STEEL.

C. B. TOMPKINS As cheap and effective a machine for ditching as I have ever seen made I made, some years ago. I presented one to my father, who had a long ditch to make, in some places as much as four feet deep, varying from that to two and a half feet. After doing the work an estimate of the cost was made, and it was only about ten cents a rod.

The implement was nothing more than a plow with narrow shares stoutly constructed and fastened to the beam with a forward projection to make them enter readily the hard earth in the ditch. The handles were made to adjust as the ditch deepened. A long whiffletree was used with a horse on each side of the ditch. As the plow passed four or five men were required to shovel out the loose earth. It was kept going over and over until the proper depth was reached. If a flat stone was in the way it had to be dug out—it would not break the plow but it had to be taken out because it was an obstruction that the horses could not loosen that was all. The Ditcher is now made by Messrs. Rumsey & Almy, Trumansburg, N. Y., who will no doubt be able to furnish farther information.

HOWELLS, April 11, 1878.

W. A. Armstrong, Sec. Farmers, Club:

There has been some discussion by your Club about raising corn and millet for fodder. I will give you my plan which may not be the best, but it suits me better than any I have tried; I commence drawing manure in the fall and continue as fast as it is made, until the land has a good coat. I prefer to put it on my land as fast as it is made. In so doing I get the liquid with the solid. I plow the land in May six inches deep, turn the furrow over, but not flat; when plowed I hitch three horses to a double harrow, and with the driver's weight on it, harrow the ground the way it is plowed then cross it, then harrow it the same way as at first. On the first of June I harrow it twice, once each way, clean it of roots, stones or other obstructions, run slight furrows across the field two feet apart, from north to south if practicable, then scatter in the furrow common corn at the rate of three bushels per acre, harrow it in the same way it is furrowed, and roll with an iron roller. I have no trouble with weeds as the corn comes up quick and gets the start of them. The 1st of September it is fit to use. I commence cutting and hauling it to the barn and feed my cows once a day, if my grass is good; if poor then I feed twice a day. I cut it all before frost and do not stand it in large stouts. Tie a band around the tops of the stout. I feed it until winter, if I have any then, which I often do, I bind it in sheaves and draw it to the barn. I prepare the ground for millet the same as for corn, except furrowing. Sow half a bushel of seed per acre; and cover it with Thomas' Smoothing Harrow. When the seed is ripe I cut and cure as hay. Feed once a day to my milch cows with hay. G. W. CORWIN.

The Club approves the thoroughness of preparation with which Mr. Corwin gives the ground. If he will report observations of the feeding value of millet raised by his method, the work will be accepted with pleasure.

List of Appointments for Meetings, as Arranged by T. A. Thompson.

- |         |                                  |                    |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| May 1,  | Sherwood, Branch Co.,            | Mich.              |
| " 2,    | Bronson, " "                     | " "                |
| " 3,    | Allen, Hillsdale Co.,            | " "                |
| " 4,    | Coldwater, Branch Co.,           | " "                |
| " 5,    | Jonesville, Hillsdale Co.,       | Mich.              |
| " 6,    | Church's Corners, Hillsdale Co., | Mich.              |
| " 9,    | Tecumseh, Lenawee Co.,           | Mich.              |
| " 10,   | Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Co.,        | Mich.              |
| " 11,   | Belleville, Wayne Co.,           | Mich.              |
| " 13,   | Wyandotte, " "                   | " "                |
| May 14, | Redford, Wayne County,           | Mich.              |
| " 15,   | Scio, " "                        | " "                |
| " 16,   | Unadilla, Ingham Co.,            | Mich.              |
| " 17,   | Waterloo, Jackson Co.,           | Mich.              |
| " 18,   | Norvill, " "                     | " "                |
| " 20,   | Springport, " "                  | " "                |
| " 21,   | Homer, Calhoun " "               | " "                |
| " 22,   | Battle Creek, Calhoun Co.,       | Mich.              |
| " 23,   | Bedford, " "                     | " "                |
| " 24,   | Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Co.,        | Mich.              |
| " 25,   | South Haven, Van Buren Co.,      | Mich.              |
| " 27,   | Plainwell, Allegan Co.,          | Mich.              |
| " 28,   | Berrien Centre, Berrien Co.,     | Mich.              |
| " 29,   | To be arranged by Thomas Mars,   | in Berrien County. |
| " 30,   | " " " "                          | " "                |

T. A. THOMPSON.

How The Farmers Are Swindled.

Never sign a note, the payment of which depends upon the performance, by the payee, of some contract, even though the payee gives you such a contract.

Mr. Slickun comes around the neighborhood. He is a very genteel, fine-looking, man; of good address; never swears, don't smoke—unless you smoke, when he will treat you to the best of Havanas. If you are a temperance man, he is a temperance man also. He has found out all your characteristics and opinions, and knows just where to attack you. He has a nice thing for you. He wants you to buy the right to sell his patent back-action, reversible, non-combustible, and non-explosive, something or other. You need not pay a cent down. You may give your note for a year, and he will send on the machines. He gives you a contract, stating that if the machines do not come, or you do not succeed in selling a certain number, your note becomes void.

You sign the note, and he gives you the contract.

Your machines don't come, but you feel safe, for you have the contract. You think you will lose nothing.

By-and-by you get a letter somewhat as follows:

DETROIT, June 15, 1877.

Mr. Takenin,

Dear Sir:—I hold a note against you, given to Slickun & Co., for one hundred dollars, which was due April 1, 1877. Please call and settle.

Yours truly, JOHN JONES.

You call, armed with your contract, and show it to John Jones.

"Hem" says Jones, "Contract! I haven't got anything to do with the contract. Here's your unconditional note, sir! I am a bona fide holder, and want my money."

And you have to pay it.—[Law for the People.]

The Way a Thing is Done is What Counts.

An old negro who was asked if in his experience prayer was ever answered, replied: "Well, sah, some prars is ansud an' some inst'—pends on w'at you axes fo'. Jest arter de wah, w'en it was mighty hard scratching fo' de dullud breddern, I 'asarved w'en ebber I pway de L'od to sen' one o' Massa Peyton's fat turkies fo' de ole man, der was no notice took of de partition; but w'en I pway dat he sen' de ole man fo' de turkey, de matter was 'tended to befo' sun up nex' mornin' dead sartin'!"

Never condemn until both sides of a story have been heard.

Do not for the sake of appearing genteel, spoil a silver spoon when eating pie.

Willard C. Flagg.

We commend to our readers the following graceful tribute of respect which we find in the *Husbandman* of April 17th. In our County many will remember Mr. Flagg as the gentleman who read a very able paper at the first Mass Meeting of Patrons held in Kalamazoo in the autumn of 1873.

To Bro. Armstrong's recognition of the services of one so faithful for a life time to the best interests of his County and his fellow men, no word of ours need be added:

"DEATH OF AN EMINENT AGRICULTURIST.

"We doubt not that many of our readers have already seen the announcement of the death of the Hon. Willard C. Flagg, a man long prominent in agricultural circles and one of the most distinguished citizens of the State of Illinois. A brief biographical mentions him as the son of a farmer of Madison county Illinois, where he spent his boyhood working upon the farm and attending the local schools of the neighborhood. Ambitious of acquiring a thorough education, we next hear of him at the classical high school of St. Louis, from which he went to Yale college, where he graduated with high honors in 1854. Returning to his father's house, he immediately assumed management of a portion of the estate, and to the time of his death pursued the round of an enthusiastic, devoted, and successful experimenter in agriculture and horticulture. His labors were not confined to the farm alone, but with voice and pen he was constantly endeavoring to raise the standard of agriculture in this country.

For many years Mr. Flagg was the horticultural editor of the *Prairie Farmer*, and conducted that department with signal ability. For nearly a similar period of time he has held the position of Secretary of the Illinois State Horticultural Society. At the inauguration of the Illinois Industrial University, he was elected Corresponding Secretary, which office he filled up to the time of his death. He was also trustee of the same institution at different times, and has always taken a deep and absorbing interest in its welfare. He was no less devoted to genuine reform in municipal, state and national politics, and was always found working for the best interests of the whole people. In him the National Agricultural Congress loses its hard-working, enthusiastic and unselfish President, and various literary and scientific associations are now called to mourn the loss of one who can not be replaced. In the hurried issues of the press, we who conduct it, are in the habit when a public man dies, of dashing off a few words of kindly eulogy, yet we would fain linger longer over such a life as this, which no mere handful of words of ours can fitly commemorate. Willard C. Flagg will long be remembered by all who knew him as one who never deviated from the strict path of moral rectitude. He was an honest man, one who loved truth and justice for their own sake. Throughout his busy and anxious life he never swerved from the line of duty, and in all his public acts as well as in his private walks his character was without the slightest stain."

"A MAN who'd maliciously set fire to a barn," said old Elder Poyson, "and burn up a stable full of horses and cows, ought to be kicked to death by a jackass and I would like to be the one to do it."

## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, MAY 1, 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 Dimitt.
- Blank Plaster Orders.
- Blank Certificates of Incorporation.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We must decline "Resolutions of Respect" from Montclair Co.

We are perhaps unfortunate in not knowing the good people whose virtues are so highly extolled by the Committee; but we think the matter is overdone and calls for too much space, as it can interest but a few of our people.

Too many of our Correspondents forget that printers object to "copy" written on both sides of the paper. Write on but one side if you hope to be on good terms with the printer.

## Contributions.

It costs but one cent for a postal card on which to write out the result of some experiment, or give some information or suggestion on farm matters, which may be of great value to the readers of the VISITOR; besides, the habit of communicating what you have reason to believe will be useful to your fellow farmers will do you good.

Of course we want longer communications than can be given on a postal card, but short ones are always acceptable. If you have apprehensions about your style of composition and shun this work, lest your way of telling what you know may not be all right, do not let that deter you, for where we think we can materially improve the composition we do not hesitate to attempt it.

Of course many articles go to press as received from the writer, and I may add that many of them present subjects for discussion in the Grange, well worthy the attention of every member of the Order. The Ladies' Department since the enlargement of the VISITOR, we have become quite proud of. Of contributions the supply is good, and, in quality highly creditable to the sisters who have generously come forward to aid in the great work of the Grange. It is very gratifying to find so many Patrons willing to contribute to our columns, for of our class little has hitherto been expected in this direction, and we see in every effort of this kind the advancement of the farmer, and we feel that such advancement—be it little or much—is a permanent one.

Every careful reader has observed that many articles both from Brothers and Sisters show culture and a clear understanding of the subjects discussed. Notably among these articles is one by Geo. Pray in the last VISITOR, under the head of "Why

Not?" The enquiry "why should not farmers be represented by farmer?" in an Agricultural State, is a pertinent one. To me it seems not only a proper question to raise, but an opportune time to press it upon the attention of the farmers of the country, whether they are Grangers or not.

It cannot be denied that the Agricultural interests of the country are quite as important as any other; nor can it be denied that in the affairs of government that great interest has always occupied a "subordinate position. In the law making bodies the representatives of this interest have been few in numbers, and overshadowed by the representatives of other classes. The question of ability of farmers to represent farmers conceded, there is no question as to what course duty and interest alike demand that we should pursue. Our rights will be respected whenever we demand they shall be—not before.

How it rains. As we write, this is the sixth day of continued rain, and no weather prospects except of *still more rain*. But the falling rain is not all we hear, for the grumbling farmer, forgetful of growing grain and grass, and the promise of abundant crops, almost ensured by these continued genial, fructifying April showers, is thinking only of cornfields drowned and work delayed—of the June grass growing so nicely in his plowed field—of the harrowing and cultivating he has lately done—labor lost, on land now flooded.

Well, what are you going to do about it? Why let it rain, and enjoy the prospect of more grass and more grain. And, when fully rested, with the hired man, clean out the cellar and make the house more healthy; put up some shelves and hooks where needed; go to the barn and put everything in order. Do jobs that have been postponed, like repentance, until some convenient season, and anticipate some work that surely must be done some time in the future. You might, perhaps, profitably devote a little time to the preparation of an essay to be read to your Grange, or, better still, be putting in shape for the publisher of the VISITOR, your views upon some subject—your hobby—whatever that may be. Do not for a moment suppose that rainy days are necessarily lost time.

The farmer who has nothing to do on rainy days but to go to town, talk horse, politics, and finance, and spend a little money, (that really belongs to a creditor,) is the farmer most likely to have a mortgage on his farm, the interest on which, whether due or paid, often amounts to as much as the principal.

To know how to improve the rainy days is an important element of success to the farmer, though it does not follow that every farmer shall devote all his time, good weather and bad, to manual labor. On the contrary, he who best knows how to turn to good account all kinds of weather, will have the most time to spare for use in any way that interest or inclination may direct. Let it rain.

FARMERS will read with interest the brief letter from Prof. Cook, written before the rainy week, which has certainly put in a *stay of proceedings* to the mischievous work of the little female depositors, described by the professor. We shall expect from him, for our next VISITOR, some farther information on this point.

Does the female fly withhold her deposit of eggs during this weather, so unfavorable to her business, to commence again without loss (except in time) of her ability to work injury

to the crops? Of course the growing wheat, stimulated by these copious warm showers, has secured an important advantage, and by its rapid growth, and advanced condition for the season of the year, seems likely to get the better of its industrious enemy. Let us hear from Prof. Cook more about this matter.

Of the subjects considered by the Elmira Farmers' Club, at its meeting, April 24th, we find that of coloring butter for market received more attention than is usual for any one subject by that body of farmers, who have become so famous. The subject was ingeniously handled by the advocates of "color," but we think they did not make out a case.

How to apply hen manure with the best results had been considered at a former meeting, and was again called up by a letter from a correspondent—the conclusions reached seemed to be that it should be well mixed with dry earth, before using, rather than ashes, and the ashes taken on the meadows.

White lead was recommended as an application for galls on horses, while nearly all made the point that the ounce of prevention, by attention to the fitting of the collar, and then keeping it, and the shoulder clean, would make it quite unnecessary to know how to pad and doctor galled shoulders. To toughen the shoulder when healed a strong decoction of white oak bark was recommended.

For patches of Canada thistles, Snap Dragon and Quack grass, President Hoffman recommended strong brine, plentifully applied. My own experience with salt on Canada thistles has been satisfactory. Those who have experimented, I think, favor the use of salt in a dissolved condition,—say it is more effective. Where quack grass has taken possession it was advised to make no attempt to extirpate it, but turn the land over to pasture and meadow.

From our friend Alonzo Sessions, is a letter, concluding with these inquiries, which certainly interest Michigan farmers:

1st. Can a farmer afford to buy commercial manures who does not make good use of the manure made on his farm?

2d. Would it not be wise to give the matter of the preparation, care, handling and application of the manure made on the farm more thought, more discussion, and more careful, reliable experiments in order to determine, if possible, the best methods to produce the desired results.

3d. Would it not be wise to devote some portion of the farms attached to agricultural colleges to experiments in the use of all kinds of manures, by all practicable methods, until the truth is so well established that there will be no excuse for doubt or conjecture, and we can know that there is some degree of certainty as to the result?

The questions are answered in part by President Hoffman, by a recital of what he saw on the Cornell Farm.—Thirty-three plats of ground had been planted in corn for three years, each plat receiving a different fertilizer each year; the object being to test the relative value of each. This is to be continued some years longer. So far stable manure seems to make the best showing.

Twelve quart pails were recommended as the best sized vessel for dairymen's use.

"The advantages are, 1st, there is less surface of milk exposed to the air than in pans, and consequently less liability to dry the cream; and, 2d, less labor in handling."

The pails should be set on the floor of the cellar as likely to find the best temperature.

Seed potatoes—cut or uncut, and how many eyes in a hill, closed the discussion for the evening. The pre-

vailing opinion seemed to reach this conclusion, that more than four eyes or less than three was too much or too little. The President of the club, however, insisted that with *one whole* potato in a hill, he had been most successful for 25 years.

## Kalamazoo Young Ladies' Cooking Club.

During the winter a young ladies amateur cooking club was organized in Kalamazoo, and has been in successful operation ever since, the last meeting, having been held last week at Mrs. Silas Hubbard's. The club has 16 members, mostly young unmarried ladies. Meetings are held once in two weeks, at which a supper is prepared, each member furnishing some article of food of her own cooking, and in this way a very nice bill of fare is the result. The President assigns the work to each, and all cheerfully obey—for instance the young lady who furnished cake for the first supper is delegated to make bread for the next, and so through the whole catalogue of edibles, she makes her way; in course of time, obtaining a knowledge of cooking in all its branches. Those who have partaken of their supper bear witness to the excellence of the work performed, and the graceful and elegant manner in which the viands are served.

A SHEEP-SHEARING FESTIVAL and Basket Pic Nic, under the auspices of the Kalamazoo Agricultural Society, will be held at the National Park, Kalamazoo, May 23d, opening at 10 o'clock A. M. The programme reads:

1st. Free entrance for everybody at the gates.

2d. Competition free in all departments.

3d. No charge for anything anywhere.

Followed by a premium list and an invitation "to the ladies of the county to attend the Festival and participate in the arrangement, and ultimately dispose of an elegant Free Lunch."

We are not advised as to who is to furnish the "Free Lunch," but presume some of our Sister Grangers may have an invitation that will interest them more than the one that appears in the notice of the Secretary of the K. C. A. S.

We notice some of our Grange and Agricultural papers have a free advertising column, where brief notices of not more than three or four lines, of wants and articles for sale have an insertion without charge. To Patrons who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to bring to the notice of their friends their productions or their "wants," we offer space in the VISITOR for "The Good of the Order."

SINCE the appeal of the special committee for more diligent work on the part of the friends of the VISITOR, we have received 200 subscribers, which proves two things: that *work will tell*, and that enough work has not been done.

Patrons, what are you going to do about it?

Granges delinquent in reports from Secretaries for two or more quarters: Nos. 68, 121, 138, 141, 160, 234, 245, 250, 288, 376, 446, 534, 537, 539, 579, 605.

This list does not include those dormant Granges that have not reported for a year or more, of which there are quite a number, who seem practically dead, though they have not formally surrendered their charter.

Southern politics leaning to agriculture. The New Orleans Times advises the people of Louisiana to raise less hell and more sugar.

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER. - CENTREVILLE.

Not many days since I saw a finely dressed gentleman riding in a nice spring wagon, with a covered seat and a nice team of horses, who had some plows, which he was delivering to farmers as he passed over the country. I thought: who pays for this fine team and wagon to carry plows around, and pay the gentleman fifty dollars a month to do it? Not the plow maker? oh, no; he adds the cost of all this to the cost of making the plows. Is it not passing strange that men of sense and good intellect will be so blind to their own interest. Complaining of hard times, low prices and lack of money, and yet pay a gentleman \$50 a month, and furnish a team and carriage to bring plows to their doors! Think of this, Patrons and farmers.

It is useless for you agents to make terms and purchase implements when you neglect to avail yourselves of them. You listen too much to such gentlemen who approach you, and urge you to buy their goods, paying after harvest, at high prices with high interest; forgetting that crops may fail, or that prices may be lower than at present. A word to the wise is sufficient.

I can furnish the Challenge, two horse, seven shovel, riding cultivator for \$27; and the Brown, two horse, walking, four shovel cultivator for \$17. All wanting them must send cash with their order, as some who have purchased goods fail to remember that they have to be paid for on receipt of bill.

Best make of farm wagons, warranted, for \$51 and \$52.

Wool twine by the bale or 100 lbs. at 8½ cents a lb., if ordered soon. It will probably advance before long.

Choice coffee is now 20 cents a lb. by the sack of 135 lbs.

I can furnish the Kalamazoo Diamond Iron plows; Dodge steel mould board plow; Battle Creek iron beam chilled plow; Union City, Jonesville, Mishawaka and South Bend chilled plows; and I think that this list of different makes is enough to select from for any soil or use.

I have a lot of "A" sugars on hand, which I will sell at Detroit prices.— Nearly all kinds of domestic goods in stock; also, boots and shoes by the dozen or single pair. Fence wire, steel drag teeth, shovels, spades, forks and hoes on hand, or bought on cash orders, free of any charge or commission over cost, as I am working gratuitously now for those who avail themselves of my services.

Brine that will Preserve Butter for a Year.

To three gallons of brine strong enough to bear an egg, add a quarter of a pound of nice white sugar and one teaspoonful of salt. Boil the brine, and when it is cold strain carefully. Make your butter into rolls, and wrap each separately in a clean white muslin cloth, tying up with a string. Pack a large jar full, weigh the butter down, and pour on the brine until it is submerged. This will keep really good butter perfectly sweet and fresh for a whole year. Be careful not put upon ice, butter that you wish to keep for any length of time. In summer when the heat will not admit of butter being made into rolls, pack closely in small jars, and using the same brine, allow it to cover the butter to a depth of at least four inches. This excludes the air, and answers very nearly as well as the method first suggested.— *Duchess Farmer.*

"How to Make Money."

To answer this, I start on the supposition that it means how to get or accumulate property; as money is only a measure or representative of property.

I have read in the Chronicles of an Ancient Sage, "that the hand of the diligent maketh rich." This was written in ages long past and gone, but I am of the opinion that it is still true; for in the words of a wise man "there is nothing new under the sun;" and at this day we are claiming as discoveries methods and practices known to the ancients in centuries past.

It was the saying of an eminent Philosopher "that the true secret of money catching—the certain way to fill empty purses—and how to keep them always full; that two rules well observed would do the business.

"First, that honesty and industry must be constant companions; second, spend one penny less than your clear gains each day. Then your pocket will soon begin to thrive; creditors will never insult you, nor want oppress, nor hunger bite you." The way to wealth is as plain as the way to market; waste neither time nor money, but make good use of both. Without industry and frugality nothing will do, and with them every thing. Be punctual and just in all dealings; never keep borrowed money beyond the time you promised to return it. Then you will be men and not hide your faces at the approach of any one."

A wise man known as Poor Richard, said:

"He that by the plow would thrive, Himself must either hold or drive."

"He that rises late must trot all day to overtake his business at night."

"Drive your business and let it not drive you."

"What signifies wishing for better times; we can make the times better to ourselves by industry and frugality; there are no gains without pains."

"Diligence is the mother of good luck and God gives all things to industry."

With our industry we must be careful and oversee our affairs with our own eyes, and not trust too much to others.

"A man if he knows not how to save, will keep his nose to the grindstone all his life. Away with expensive follies, and we will not have much cause to complain of the times." Poor Richard said, "that many a little makes a mickle, and that a small leak will sink a great ship."

"The artificial wants of mankind are more numerous than the natural. A plowman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees." If you would know the value of money go and try to borrow some. Pride is as loud a beggar as want and more saucy. When you have gotten one fine thing, you must buy several more that your appearance may be all of a piece.—

What is the use of this pride of appearance; it can not promote health, or ease pain, it makes no increase of merit in the person; it hastens misfortune; it is insanity to run in debt for superfluities. Creditors have better memories than debtors, and are great observers of set days and times. Among ancient nations the borrower became the servant of the lender; and the debtor the slave of the creditor. Let us preserve our freedom, and maintain our independence. Be industrious and free; be frugal and independent. Avoid debts as you would a pestilential disease. Get what you can and what you get hold. It is the stone that will turn your lead into gold or greenbacks. Many would live by their wits without labor; but they generally break for want of stock; whereas industry brings comfort, plenty and respect. Let honesty be as the

breath of the soul, and never forget to have a penny when all expenses are paid.

Communicated by Father Abram, A. D., 1768.

Communications.

The Hessian Fly.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LANSING, April 19th, 1878.

Dear Bro. Cobb:

Knowing the general interest in the Hessian Fly, I drop you the following unwelcome facts:

The "flies" commenced hatching in quantity, about here, seven or eight days since, and now fairly swarm in the wheat fields. In the morning the females are readily detected by their red bodies, the color being due to their stock of eggs still within the ovaries. In fact they look not unlike very small mosquitoes after they take their fill of blood. At night they are black, like the males, though they may still be readily told by their claspers, which look not unlike a pair of blacksmith's plinchers.

They are now busy laying their stock of tiny red eggs, which are visible on the leaves without a glass, if one looks closely.

The future for wheat looks dark, yet there is hope in the many little black, trim, active, four-winged parasites, which, though less numerous than the flies, are still very plenty. It is a conflict between fly and parasite; we can only hope that the parasite will triumph. Very truly,

F. I. COOK.

HEDGING.

Osage Orange—Honey Locust.

Having had inquiries from readers of the VISITOR in regard to the management of hedges, I have concluded to tell through its columns what I know of it. To hedge, or not to hedge, is a question that must and will be settled by each individual farmer for himself.

The plant most generally used in this country for the purpose, is the Maclura or Osage Orange. Being a native of a more southern clime, it is not fully hardy. Yet good hedges have been formed with it in Southern Michigan and in New York. If the hedges do get killed to near the ground, it will again throw up shoots from the bottom and grow thicker than before.

I take it for granted that every farmer who sets a hedge wants it to live and grow into a fence. A little intelligent thought will contribute to this result.

I know an intelligent Granger who prepared for planting a hedge by turning two furrows together. The land was a stiff sod, and of course was not broken at all under the turned furrows. On the top of this he set his plants, and the result showed that he had not used his intelligence to good advantage, or that the subject of planting hedges had not been intelligently discussed in the Grange to which he belonged.

To have the best success the ground should be prepared by deep plowing and thorough cultivation the year previous to planting the hedge. The strip should be eight feet wide; and in plowing be sure to plow it all up, and not cover any that is not plowed.

The plants are usually 6 to 9 inches apart, making 22 to the rod for the last named distance. I have a theory, that the plants would do better at the distance of twelve inches, by their roots having more room.

The method of planting I have found the most expeditious, was described to me by an Illinois hedge-grower, and is as follows:

Set a line where the hedge is to be planted, drawing it tight. Mark with a hoe handle, or some pointed stick, along the line, which may then be removed. Have your plants in a pail of water, and your spade bright and sharp so it will enter the ground easily. Standing with your face to the end of the line, where you wish to commence, setting the pail on the right hand side of the work. Get your spade at right angles with the line you are to plant, so that the middle of the blade will be on the mark. Run it into the ground at an angle of about 45 degrees, raise the handle with the left hand, and with the right put the plant under the spade, which may then be withdrawn, letting the earth fall on the plant. Stepping backwards, continue setting in the same manner, at the distance you desire. The

earth should be well tramped over the plants—this is very essential to success. The ground on both sides of the hedge should be well cultivated and kept clean of weeds for three years. Heavy mulching with manure might do as well, and perhaps better, than hoeing.

There is a difference of opinion among hedge-growers in regard to the after treatment. Dr. Warder says: "Cut as near the ground as you can after one year's growth. In July cut again, five or six inches above the last cut. Trim twice a year, making your cuts an inch or two higher than the last, until the hedge is at the proper height. If your plants have lived and grown well, a pretty thick bottom may be made on this plan." But I am inclined to think a better one may be had by letting the plants grow for two or three years, then lay them in this manner: Commence at the end and cut the stems of the plant about half off, close to the ground, (some say just below the surface), and lay them lengthwise of your hedge, at an angle of 45 degrees, one over another, until the whole is finished. It will sometimes be necessary to put on a weight to hold them in the right position. This will make a close bottom, and fill all vacancies when not too wide. When grown two years more, trim to the required height.

The Honey Locust has come into use for hedges, within a few years. I have never planted it, but have seen hedges of it, which promise well. It has the advantage of being perfectly hardy. It does not sucker like the Yellow Locust. H. COLLINS.

White Pigeon, Mich.

CHURCH'S CORNERS, Hillsdale, Co., Mich., April 15th 1878.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

Enclosed you will find seven dollars, \$5.50 to be applied on fees and dues, and \$1.50 for three copies of VISITOR.

Wheatland Grange is virtually stronger to-day than ever before, we were pronounced dead by people outside the gates. We called on a physician who felt our pulse, examined us thoroughly, and pronounced our pulse strong, body sound, with back bone and Grange principle enough to carry our Grange along in spite of the strong opposition around us. Some took courage and we resolved to build a hall. A short time ago we turned out, hauled our stone and gravel, hewed our timber, sent our Agent to the pinery, bought our pine lumber and shingles (he made a nice saving for us), and every thing is now on the ground, foundation nearly laid, and frame nearly ready to raise. Our hall is to be 25x50, with 14 foot posts. We hope to have it done and ready for Bro. T. A. Thompson to speak in on the seventh of May. He has made an appointment here on that day, and will give us a lecture in the afternoon and in the evening, and we hope all Patrons in this part of the county will come and hear him.

Our Grange finds it pays to keep a small stock of groceries on hand. A little over a year ago we started with a capital of one hundred dollars; with that we have bought eleven hundred and forty-seven dollars of stock during the year, with a saving of at least 30 per cent; which makes a total saving of over three hundred dollars.

Two of our brothers wanted cultivators, Brother Gardner recommended the "Challenge Sulkey Cultivator"—seven shovels, made at Tecumseh. They sent and got them this spring, have used them some and praise them very highly, claim they are the best made and work the best of any they ever saw, and we think we can recommend them to all Patrons that wish to buy. We have found that as far as we have bought tools or wagons on Bro. Gardner's recommendation that they have been first class and have given good satisfaction. And now I would say to all Patrons stand by those that stand by us and those that deal with us fairly. Fraternally,

JAS. HUMPHREY, Sec.

A paper in Rochester, says the idea of teaching every girl to thump a piano and every over grown boy to go to Detroit as a book-keeper, will make rutabagas worth \$40 per bushel in less than 20 years which will be a good thing for those who know enough to stick to farming.

—The pin-back dress show symptoms of going out with the tide.

## Ladies' Department.

## APRIL SUNSHINE.

The blessed April sunshine, doth quicken to new life  
 The myriad forms of beauty bright, with which the earth is rife.  
 Where all seemed late, so bleak, and bare,  
 Devoid of comeliness,  
 The merry sunshine, sweet and fair,  
 Comes with its warm caress;  
 Calls forth leaf, blossom, bird and bee,  
 And lades the fragrant breeze  
 With soul-inspiring melody—  
 Nature's sweet harmonies.

Even so the sunshine of a heart,  
 Where pure affection dwells,  
 Whose every action, word, or thought,  
 Sweet charity impels:  
 Doth waken in the human soul,  
 The germs of beauty rare;  
 (E'er power of darkness gained control)  
 Placed by the Maker there.

And much that is both good and fair,  
 As the result we see,  
 In lives oft rescued from despair  
 By love's sweet ministry. ANNIE.

## House Cleaning.

Having read in the GRANGE VISITOR "Aunt Sue's" spicy recital of her early experience in house cleaning, I should opine that it happened in the "dark ages" long ago, and not in this enlightened age of the world, where order and intelligence prevail. I would likewise give my experience.—Spring house-cleaning is a wearisome task, but it is not altogether without its pleasure, and in the satisfaction it brings when it is all over with, and things are renovated and made to look almost as good as new, we are well repaid for all the inconvenience we have been put to. I would tell Aunt Sue, and all the aunts, mothers and sisters that read the VISITOR my mode of operation. As I do my own work, and for that reason have to be methodical in order to accomplish all I have to do, and still find time for reading and some little ornamental work, which I am very fond of, I hardly ever have house-work to do in the afternoon, only the ordinary work of cleaning up after dinner and dish-washing. I commence my cleaning in a very moderate way. First of all I take everything out of my clothes presses in the chambers; shake every article and air them; sweep, dust and wash the shelves and floor and let them dry; put fresh paper on the shelves, and put the things back again. That is work enough for one morning, and still have time to prepare dinner. In like manner I overhaul every closet and drawer in the chambers, and then take one room at a time every morning till all are cleaned. Then I brush winter clothes, furs, etc., that have to be put away securely from moths, etc. In like manner I clean the closets below and bureau drawers. I find this a pleasing occupation, for I am sure to find some old-time remembrance, some memento received in my girlhood, that carries me back in memory to the happy long-ago, and my heart feels young again, and I live over scenes long passed, but still green in memory's cell. How sweet and dear those old time memories are, and I can but fondly linger over them, and it is hard to come back to the sterner realities of life, and begin the toil of cleaning again; though I think I am stronger after those little episodes to battle again with toil. I take one room at a time, and first take down the pictures (of which I have many, being a lover of the beautiful in nature and art), clean them and set them carefully in another room, likewise dust and wash, if need be, the ornaments and set

them away; take down the curtains, remove all dust from furniture and place them all in another room; take up the carpet; remove the dust, sweep down the walls; tack strips of paper on the border of the wall paper to protect it from being soiled in white-washing the ceiling. I use Spanish white for whitewash, not lime, as it stains the paper, and spoils the wood-work if touched with it. (There is no danger of the whitewash brush being laid on my pet pictures, or the sleeves of my silk dress soaking in it. And if "Squire Frost," or any other squire and his family, should come there is a room ready to receive them in, and the process of cleaning will not be very much hindered.) When the carpet is well shaken, it has to wait till the men come to dinner, and then I get help to put it down; and then comes the pleasant part of house cleaning: the arranging of things to my taste—looking with complacency upon the work of my hands. And so I continue on till every room in the house has been renovated. It takes me some time to accomplish all, for my house is large; but I never get weary, and the burden does not seem so great.

I hope "Aunt Sue" will favor us with her present method of house cleaning in her new house. I would tell her that I have had some experience in hard-finished walls. Some years ago we built a new house, after a plan of my own drawing. I had an eye for convenience and labor-saving. Our house was considered a model farm house. The walls were all hard-finished, and some were like a mirror, they were so highly polished. It was before it was thought stylish to use oiled wood or black walnut, so it was painted white inside and out; but the walls were so purely white and glossy they soiled easily and kept me constantly cleaning, and I became quite disgusted with them. We had a chance to sell, so we let it all go,—the house I had taken so much pleasure in planning to my taste, and the farm my husband had taken so much comfort in tilling and bringing to a high state of cultivation. We sold all. Yes; sacrificed it to hard-finished walls. We have a good house now; convenient, though not modern; a good farm in a pleasant situation, and we are satisfied with it. It is no ways likely I shall be called upon to plan another house, but if I should I would have no painted inside wood-work and no hard-finished walls, at least not so smooth.

I would say to every sister that if you are to have a new house, draw the plan to suit yourselves. But I must stop or I shall "talk too much."

Fraternally yours,

AUNT MARGARET.

YPSILANTI, April 20th, 1878.

Worthy Bro. J. T. Cobb:

OUR GRANGE VISITOR is to us a welcome one. Aside from the pleasure and encouragement we find in the perusal of its columns, we prize it because we believe it will aid much the noble work in which we, as Patrons are engaged. We hope no members of our Order in this State will fail to avail themselves of the benefit to be derived from the THE VISITOR.

The Ladies' Department we feel especially interested in, and we hope it may continue to call out the efforts of the Sisters in the Grange, in such a way as may be a help to themselves and others. If I thought anything I might write, would do any one half as much good as some things which I have seen in THE VISITOR (contributed by my Sisters in the Grange,) have done me, I would surely make the attempt; I think if, as Betsey says, the ladies do not keep the space allotted to us filled with something better, I may make the trial any way. Fraternaly, ANNIE.

An untidy person cannot make good butter.

## Mothers.

The subject I have chosen for my essay is "Mothers."

But first let me say, it is over thirty years since I attempted to write an essay to be read in public; and, never being an adept in the business, I cannot read to you such an one as many of our sisters could. But if each, in turn, will use the talent given them, whether it be one or ten, we will know we have tried to make this Grange an amusing and instructive one.

I will now speak of our childhood home. As we look back to those days, the first impression, almost invariably, is our mother, though she, perhaps, passed over the river long ago; yet her teachings still live. We can see her in memory's picture, as she moved among us children with often a saddened yet sweet expression. It was to her we went with our petty troubles, and if they were smoothed with a kindly hand do we not know that they were cured easier than if she had given us a slap in the face and unpleasant words? Yes, we know if we were led by our better natures to do right, it then left no thorn to mar the sunlight of our homes. Then let us learn a lesson from it, and when we are the mothers and have the responsibility of moulding the character of those entrusted to our keeping, that we always let the baser part of our natures govern our actions.

It is no light thing to know just how much to indulge our children, or how far to restrain, or how to adopt ways and means to govern aright the varying dispositions and temperaments; and when the mother fully realizes this fact her burden is greatly lightened, for she will then strive to let her better judgement dictate.

I have heard mothers say: "I was a fair scholar when I married, but I have forgotten all I ever knew, for I have raised quite a family, and had so much to do I had no time to look in school books." I think this is a wrong way to do. I feel it is just and necessary, when our children begin to learn, we should show them we take an interest in their mental work, and if we do really feel an interest, as their years and knowledge increase, so will ours, and for the time we spent in aiding them to get their lessons we receive two-fold pay.

A mother's work covers a broad field, but the sphere in which she moves may be great or it may be small; her examples may be a blot casting its dark shadows over her family, or they may be a blessing carrying with them holy and noble influence. Mothers too often educate themselves to look on the dark and gloomy side of life. If we would only resolve to make the most of our surroundings we would be the gainers, for it would lighten our tasks and help to bring brightness to our homes. We should ever strive to cultivate the moral as well as the intellectual part of our natures; for where harmonious order prevails, the storms and tempests of unrestrained passion cannot wield their poisonous influence.

Our children are like a musical instrument; if we play continually on the discordant notes, it brings forth discord, sours their disposition, makes wrangling and bitterness of feeling with the whole household; but with these discordant notes let us strike on the common cords in the order they should come, and then pleasant music will be the result.

The mother is truly a sculptor, and the structures she has to mould into characters should be handled with care, knowledge and wisdom.

Worthy Brother J. T. Cobb:

Nothing would ever have induced me to try to write anything for your interesting paper but fear of the discontinuance of the Ladies' Department. I have stood trembling just outside this department for some time, and now if I may be permitted, I will come in as boldly as though my name ranked with Fanny Fern's and Grace Greenwood's.

Perhaps a word or two to the young housekeepers, at this season of the year, on house-cleaning, would not be amiss. Don't, sisters, I beg of you, try to clean the whole house at once, thereby making every member of the family fretful, cross, and uncomfortable, and yourself so nervous that should friends chance to call unexpectedly, you are ready to fly with anxiety.

And even the old house-dog which is commonly so good natured and friendly, after taking one peep in at the half

open door, gives a low growl and starts for the barn, while his firm, dignified step says very plainly in a "doggish" sort of way, that he intends to keep out of the reach of the broomstick and mop-handle, until things are again set to rights. Let me repeat, don't try to clean the whole house at once, or in a day, as though your life depended on finishing before you slept. A better plan is to go moderately about it, and if you clean and set to rights one room a day, you will get through the whole affair without losing your patience, or kicking the cat either. But that which will pay you most of all, will be to hear you "better half" say: "Why my little woman, what have you been about? If it were not for the clean, bright look pervading the whole house, I should be tempted to think you had not cleaned house this spring, so quiet have you been about it? Why, bless you, when mother cleaned house we knew it, and came to our meals with fear and trembling until it was over with."

Nearly every man within the circle of our acquaintance, thinks his mother did everything about right; and when your husband tells you that you have done better than his mother, your cup of happiness must indeed be full, and you will not regret having taken this plan for house-cleaning. Fraternaly,

JUNO.

Springport Grange, No. 45.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

Although a stranger to you, and the readers of the VISITOR, I am a sister in the Order and love the Grange so well that I never let anything but sickness prevent my attending our Grange meetings, though I live four and a half miles away. I have never offered anything for the Ladies' Department before; but if you will give me a little corner in it, I will try and prove myself worthy.

I find much good advice from the sisters, that I love to read, especially the hints on house-keeping. The all-important subject seems to be, "To accomplish the most with the least labor, and least disturbance of the harmony of the household, and save time for mental improvement or social pleasure." As it is now time to clean house, it will do no harm to discuss the question a little, as every one has a way of her own.

As Aunt Sue has told the sisters to ask the Grange for their way, I will, as one of the members, give my method: I begin on Monday morning by baking bread, pies, cake and cookies enough to last till I get through,—for I don't intend to be very long about it. Then I prepare a nice pan of baked pork and beans, so that I need do no cooking if the parson or deacon and family should come, (which they are sure to do). I have often thought it would be a splendid idea to put up a notice on the gate, "No admittance for six days." Now we are ready to clean. I begin at the top of the house and clean and put in order one room at a time, till I go through.

I have often been in houses torn up as Aunt Sue describes hers to have been, and have wondered if the good woman would ever get through alone. It really surprises me to see how easily and quietly I get through, and the good nature that prevails among the sterner sex. But the idea of a man being cross and disagreeable because his wife is cleaning house any more than his wife to be so because he has to do his harvesting and she must necessarily do more cooking, and have more men to wait upon. Better for them to use a little of their precious strength in whipping carpets and moving furniture, etc. Try it, brothers.

We all know that oil cloth will protect our carpets, but as that we buy is very expensive and of poor quality, I will tell you my way of making some that is good and cheap. Buy some very heavy factory or drill, sew together what you require; then stretch it upon the side of a building, or on quilting frames, very tight, and paint it with yellow paint; put on three coats, putting a little varnish in the last one, and when thoroughly dry it is ready for use, and will wear four or five years. If you have never tried it I think you will be pleased with the result, if you do so.

Now, we are done with cleaning house, let me say a little about our common work. Too many house-keepers make themselves so much work by having so much around in the afternoon that should be done in the morning. It is much easier to do the baking, churning, and ironing in the morning, and if the ironing is too large for one forenoon, lay it away until the next

morning. You have then the whole afternoon to rest; or, perchance, your husband may be going a few miles away to look at some fancy stock, or to the neighboring town on some business, then by the time he is ready and drives up to the door you are ready too. And if not invited, never mind, just step out in such a confident way that he really imagines he has given you the most cordial invitation in the world, and will enjoy your company as well.

This has been the experience of over 20 years house-keeping, and I have always got along nicely.

Fraternally yours,  
SISTER AGATHA.

**An Evergreen, Fruitful Tree,—Symbolic of the Grange.**

This tree is not of spontaneous growth like the forest evergreens, for the seed was planted by O. H. Kelly, Dec. 4th, 1867, in Washington, D. C. For a long time 'twas only a slender stalk, and very few of us, if any, ever thought of its maturing and becoming a tree of such enormous size as it is to-day. And why has it become such? Because it was *matured* by Hope, and was strong in Faith, as its heavenly tending indicates.

We no longer behold it with wonder and amazement, with its wide extended arms ever ready to dispense Charity, (one of its richest fruits) in all cases, when needed. And the true Fidelity of its different members or parts, is apparent by the union of the whole and every part, each being necessary co-workers for the grand result of its growth, namely: Education or Knowledge. Hence, I will call it a tree of knowledge; but not like the dangerous, fatal one placed in the Garden of Eden, that tempted our first parents, but the knowledge that lies at the foundation of human happiness, and one of the first steps taken in climbing the tree, is to choose between knowledge and ignorance, at every step, on every part of the tree, to the topmost twig, written in golden letters.

But, as we saw from the little seed the slender stalk, so with the mind—the soil in which is planted the seed of knowledge, and in striving to procure it, let us remember that it ranks far above wealth; will add more to our happiness, and fit us better for a life of usefulness at home, and to the world generally. But why, do you ask, do I call it an evergreen tree? It is not because of its color, but, that it is ever adding new verdure, blossoms and fruit; even amid all the blighting storms of ages and eternity, it will doubtless live and grow, only a little *plaster*, or something of that nature, may be needed occasionally, to show to the outside world its beautiful strength and productions.

In the formation of a tree, we have the roots, the body or trunk, the branches, branchlets, twigs and leaves. The world at large are permitted to behold the tree, and to know something of its fruits, but, to know nothing of the workings way down deep, among the roots, which can only be found on Grange soil, emblematic of the secret part of the Order.

The body or trunk I will call a symbol of the National Grange; the main branches, the State Granges; the branchlets, the District or Pomona Granges; the twigs, the Subordinate Granges; and the leaves, I will denominate the individual members belonging thereto. This noble tree is not prized for its fruits only, but for its shelter, shade and ornament; and many thousands there are, who, from the storms and seething trials of life, have found it a shelter and shade; and as for its ornament,—'tis found in the name and proven by the badge.

Already do we see some of its fruits, ripening for the harvest, while some are only opening into the sweet-scented blossoms. But much depends upon the different relations of all parts of this tree. We should all be guarded, and keep a close watch that no contending enemy of the soil, injure the fine tendrils of the root, and sap its very foundation. Also, that the destroying elements of factions, jealousies or monopolies, do not injure or impede its growth; and lastly, though not least in importance, are the use of the leaves: They afford the necessities for the very life of all the other parts, being the organs of respiration and digestion, exhalation and absorption. Therefore every leaf of the tree has a work to do; and each should see that they are not blown about by every breeze, but get a firm hold, that we may stem every storm,

each one fitting us better to fulfill our mission, the dependence of the other resting on us.

Some leaves, and even some twigs, in failing to do the work assigned them, are considered useless and injurious growths, and the pruning knife removes them from the Fraternity, while some too, for want of energy, we see deaden and fall off, and are seen and heard of no more; and some, having fully performed their mission here, leave with us tokens of their faithful labors, and blessings on this noble tree.

If we fit our sons and daughters to be the peers of the most worthy and best of our land, and command from all the respect they deserve, then we have a great work to do. It would be well for each of us to guard well our actions and sayings, that there be found no useless or unsound fruit, for on the tablet of the mind we write for everlasting good or ill, what storms can not wash out, nor the slow moving ages of eternity obliterate. So shall the tree be known by its fruits. JENNIE A. POPE.

MARILLA, Manistee Co., April, 1878.

Pontiac, April 23d, 1878.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

Inclosed please find \$1.00, as payment for two GRANGE VISITORS. I have never felt just right to receive the VISITOR free, even if my husband is Master of Grange No. 283, as the paper has such a struggling time to maintain its position as a semi-monthly. If all Patrons would only see and feel what is for their interest and take hold and sustain such a valuable paper, then it might not be amiss for us to get it free. I would not have it changed back to a monthly, and of smaller size for anything. It grows better each number, and we hail its arrival with pleasure.—You may put down one fifty cents to the credit of the VISITOR you send to Gilbert H. Shattuck. The other number you may send to my address for the present. I want one to keep at home for our own use, or to give away to friends.

A friend writes me, with an aching heart, that their Grange has gone down, although a faithful few strove hard to keep it up. She says she only missed four meetings in four years; and yet she has not been obliged to give up as there were not enough faithful ones to sustain it. I thought, perhaps if I should send her some of our good GRANGE VISITORS, and let her see how much alive we are in Michigan, it might give her, and others of that community, new courage. I hope never to see the day that our Grange is pronounced dormant.

We are getting along very well,—occasionally taking in new members; have a paper read once a month by one of the ladies. Expect Bro. Thomas F. Moore, of Adrian, to address us the second Saturday in May, and Bro. T. A. Thompson the last of May.

If you have the two April numbers you may date my subscription from April 1st, if not, from May 1st.

Yours Fraternally,  
MARY SHATTUCK,  
Pontiac Grange, No. 283.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I find no words to express the pleasure I take in reading the VISITOR.—We are living in a new country, where we see but little of the world, so to us the VISITOR is doubly dear.

I have not ventured to speak before, partly because of natural modesty, and partly because of early instruction, which taught me to keep silent in the presence of my superiors. But now I feel it is my duty to say something, as you have been so kind as to give us a corner in the VISITOR.

I do love to read "Myra's," and "Aunt Kate's" letters and all the rest. I wish "Betsey" would tell us just how she does her work, that she can be "ready to go whenever the team goes, or anybody comes along." I venture to say she has not got a regiment of little ones to care for, or she could not find time to go. I have, and I scarce ever find time to make a friendly visit, or attend the Grange, although it is a pleasure to do so. I do not think it is right for a mother to leave her children at home to care for themselves, and leave her work undone, for the sake of visiting. If I venture to go, I find I have to work the harder to make up lost time, and there is always "something neglected or something lost." Now, if there is any easier method of doing housework, we, poor souls, that have a houseful of children and poor health, would like to know.

"Betsey No. 2," might tell us some more of the unnecessary work.

I believe with her, that it is economy to bake by the quantity. If it will be acceptable I will give a receipt for cookies: Four cups of sugar; two cups of butter (or meat gravy); eight eggs; four tablespoonful of water; vanilla or nutmeg. These cookies are as nice when six weeks old as when first baked. I might say a few words about our Grange, but time will not permit.

Kind wishes to all.  
MRS. GRANGER.

**To the Sisters Known Through our Visitor.**

As our last talk—borrowing the editorial plural just to begin with,—was minus a headline, we have one this time long enough for both. If we are to represent Maple Grove, and no one else seems inclined, we must have due regard to appearances or Maple Grove will not thank us for becoming self-representative.

Those unknown, yet well known sisters, we like them all. Fell in love with "Myra" at first sight, and would endorse every word she has said, thus far. We miss the sparkle of "Betsey No. 1," without which the VISITOR would never be complete, and we are happy to welcome No. 2, and the other new sister who, fortunately for us, could not speak to her satisfaction in the Grange, and so has been forced to choose "a more excellent way." I think it is not always the want of ideas that keeps us silent in the Grange, but oftener the lack of practice in speaking in early life. Recitations are very little to the purpose, as they give no exercise in the expression of our own thoughts. I feel very much at home in the Grange, but do not expect to ever say anything to the purpose on any subject there, and so I talk here, where I can.

I think our differences of opinion result mostly from difference in circumstances. I sympathize with Betsey No. 1, as it has always been hard work for my husband to read aloud when he was tired. Learning this early in our married life, we never expected it of him; and as it was hard work for me, too, little of it has ever been done. While No. 2 is reading aloud, No. 1 is, no doubt, busy with those things, which being done, will permit her to "go whenever the team goes;" so, both are well employed, and each has a right to her choice.

I kept a strict account of all incomes and outgoes for many years, but have backslidden. The plan of a separate purse I never tried; was quite to romantic to think of such a thing at first, but later in life saw it to be a plan that worked well where it was adopted, and consider "Myra's" statement of the case so truthful that most farmers' wives must surely "second the motion."

Sister Betsy how did you get my recipe for cake? which, leaving out both milk and cream, was my mother's rule forty years ago, and how much longer I do not know. She called it, "One, two, three, four cake." Experimenting myself, I added the cup of cream, and found that it was "too much of a good thing"; and changed to half cup of cream half buttermilk, when I thought it perfect; light as a feather and rich as the faintest epicure could ask, but so tender that it required very careful handling. I have never seen it excelled, but would like it plainer now.

Yes; we make our cookies by the quantity, but when obliged to have young girls manage matters, as has been necessary so often, the quantity did not last long.

About the trimming; I have a very sensible niece—to Maple Grove I will say it is Miss Helen Maynard—who has ideas of her own about most things, and has expressed some of them in this wise:

"To trim, or not to trim; that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The purse contractions so much trimming gives us,

Or to take arms against a sea of ruffles And by opposing, end them. To shop—to call— And say we scorn the fashions, And the ten thousand needless things demanded; To shop—to call—to call perchance on some fine lady

Whose dress is trimmed; aye, there's the rub! For in that call what looks may come, What scornful looks at our plain costume!

'Twill make us vow we'll trim it. For who would fuss and fret, waste time and money

O'er useless things, did not some woman's scorn, Contempt of fippant clerks and silly misses Make cowards of us all. We bear the trimming ills

Rather than fly to others that we know too well.

This is the calamity that makes Slavery to fashion of so much of life.— For who would headaches bear and sideaches too, While bending over ruffles, folds and puffs, When she could her quietus take By simply quitting it." E. A. S.

GRATTAN GRANGE, No. 170.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

By your permission I will try and answer my sister, Mrs. Patron's kind, but secret talk in the VISITOR of March 15th.

Sister, I am glad to have you my friend, but I must confess I am wholly in the dark as to your whereabouts, but knowing you take the GRANGE VISITOR, I will try and have a little talk with you. Now I will suppose you are in my sitting-room, and have told me your secret, and I have listened with interest. Now I am sorry, Sister, you do not enjoy the Grange and its benefits. I think you are losing valuable opportunities by not attending the Grange; we must sow if we reap. But perhaps you think you have reason for staying away; but, Sister, there is no object worthy our attention but calls for thought, time, and money. I think a good Patron thinks much, and is not afraid to use a little time and money for the good of the Order. Sister, I think you are charitable, but I think you have had your feelings hurt; that is not to be wondered at when we have such a diversity of characters and opinions in the Grange. Perfection belongs not to mortals, and I advise you to go to the Grange and take an interest in it, for I see by your letter in the VISITOR you are capable of doing much good. I think private members can do just as much good as officers, and sometimes I think more. Sister, I would rather be a high private than an unqualified officer.

I would like to ask you some questions. Do your members discuss questions, write essays, and have select readings in the Grange? If not, I would recommend it. We find it very beneficial in our Grange. We have a question box on the Lecturer's stand, where we deposit our questions for discussion, which takes place after the routine business is done for the evening.

I tell you, Mrs. Patron, I am a full-blooded Granger; always at the Grange in season, and have never had an excuse to stay at home unless obliged to. I think that I am so far along in years, I must be diligent, and I guess my sisters think so too, or I would not be writing for a paper. The reason I have given my address was, I thought perhaps some of my better qualified Sisters at home would write, but not a word yet; I guess, Mrs. Patron, they will wake up when they see this. I would like to call you by your real name, the one you now have is too cold and formal. Farewell, Sister Patron, now don't forget to write for the VISITOR and your affectionate AUNT KATE.

LITCHFIELD GRANGE, No. 107, Hillsdale Co., April —, '78.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I have looked long to see some communication from Litchfield Grange, but nothing has appeared, and so I thought to try my hand.

While our Grange was under the charge of a Freeman, it became very rude and boistrous, so much so that it was necessary that we appoint or elect A. Gard to take charge of the Grange. The said Gard done his work well, but needed more help, so it was thought best to have the Sisters appoint or elect a Gard to look after their interests; so with two Gards at the head of the Grange we are getting along nicely.

As there was room for improvement, and a good chance to sow some more Grange seed, we selected two fine looking Gardeners to select the best of seed for the members of the Grange to sow, that will bring forth an hundred fold.

Brothers and Sisters, try to choose wisely and cultivate well, and while we are cultivating the soil, do not forget the mind, for a cultured mind will make us better men and women, and elevate our moral, social and financial standing among our fellow men.

With a Whit-comb to watch the gate and smoothe the ruffled hair on our pate, we now number just eighty-eight.

In looking over the GRANGE VISITOR, I see you want more subscribers in order to enable the Grange organ to pay its way. Brothers, be a little more temperate in your tobacco and whiskey indulgences and you will be able to bring the welcome VISITOR to your homes. It is a shame to think that 20,000 Patrons can not or will not support a nine by fourteen eight-page paper like ours. Sisters, see what you can do. I have been reading Aunt Kate's article in the last number of the VISITOR, and must say with her—Brothers, don't let the VISITOR go back to a monthly.

Yours, R. W. FREEMAN.

#### Castrating Lambs.

This operation should not be delayed after the lamb is a week old, as there is risk or danger after that time. The scrotum (in which the testicles are enclosed) is a lining membrane which is a continuation of the membrane which lines the abdomen. If the operation should be delayed for several weeks and inflammation should follow castration, it is readily communicated to the abdomen, and serious consequences are likely to follow. At a week old the entire scrotum and testicles may be removed by a pair of sharp shears, with very little loss of blood, and the wound will readily heal. If the operation is deferred until the lamb is several weeks old, greater care is required. In such cases the animal is held securely by the operator and an assistant; the scrotum is taken in the left hand, and the testicle pressed toward the lower end, rendering the end tight and smooth. A free incision is then made with a sharp knife at the end of the scrotum, cutting through the lining membranes, the cords and vessels are scraped asunder (not cut,) and the testicles removed.—*Western Rural.*

#### THE REAPER, DEATH.

Died on the 28th of February last, at her home in South Riley, Sister ELLEN CUTLER, aged 29 years, an esteemed member and officer of South Riley Grange, and by this notice for the Grange, we desire to give evidence of its loss and express sympathy for the stricken husband and bereaved children.

Also on the 21st of February last, at South Riley, Sister ADALINE CASE, aged 61 years, a member of our Grange. We also tender our sympathy to the aged husband.

J. M. DEWITT,  
Mrs. J. M. DEWITT, } Com.  
JOHN P. MADDEX, }  
B. F. McDONALD, a worthy member of Rochester Grange, No. 257, died April —, 1878.

#### PRICE LIST of SUPPLIES

Kept in the office of the Secretary of the

#### MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE,

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

Ballot Boxes, (hard wood).....	\$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.

#### FARM for SALE, VERY CHEAP!

Situated about 6 1/2 miles south of Ypsilanti, in the township of Augusta, Washtenaw Co., containing 200 Acres of Land. A very pleasant and desirable location; well adapted to grain raising and dairying—a first-class Cheese Factory just across the street from it.

There is about 40 acres of good Timber upon it; a fine Orchard of Choice Fruit, and pretty good buildings. It is located within one-half mile of a first rate District School, a Saw Mill, Post Office, Blacksmith shop and two Stores.

This farm, having come into my hands by Assignment, I will sell either the whole or a part of the same, at very low figures.

J. WEBSTER CHILDS,  
Assignee.

april-2t

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

General Co-operative Grange Agent.  
WESTERN BUSINESS A SPECIALTY.  
No. 18 Corondolet Street, New Orleans.

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

#### \$10. \$15. \$18. \$22. THE UNIVERSAL SEWING MACHINES

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

Secretaries, send for specimens of the work, and circulars for your whole Grange.

O. R. INGERSOLL, of Patrons' Paint Co.,  
Front and Dover Streets, New York.

#### CONSULT YOUR INTEREST!

**JOHN C. MILLER,**  
Commission Merchant,

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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,  
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Henry Chamberlain, William Chamberlain,  
Three Oaks.  
George Bridgman, of Bridgman,  
Thomas Mason and Wm. J. Nott, St. Joseph.

#### FOR SALE! 50 Swarms Italian Bees,

In Moveable Comb Hives.  
FOR PARTICULARS ADDRESS  
**SOUTHARD & RANNEY,**  
KALAMAZOO, MICH.

#### WRITE FOR CIRCULARS TO

**The PHELPS & BIGELOW**  
Wind Mill Co.,

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**"I. X. L."**  
WIND MILL.  
And Dealers in  
PUMPS, PIPES, TANKS, &c.  
Nos. 44, 46 & 48 N. Burdick St.,  
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#### PATRONS' PAINT COMPANY, 259 Front Street, New York.

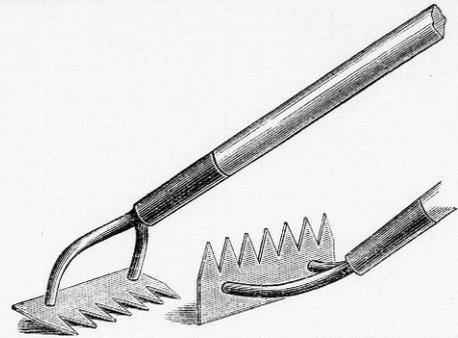
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50 per cent Saved.

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

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WALKER & CULVER, - PROPRIETORS.

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The Best WEEDING MACHINE in Use. For further information and TERMS TO PATRONS, Address  
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**6000**  
LADIES' SPRING HATS,  
Trimmed in the Latest Styles,  
AT FROM 50cts. TO \$3.00 EACH.

**5000**  
LADIES' LINEN SUITS,

Consisting of Basque, Skirt with Overskirt, cut and Trimmed in good style, which we will sell at from \$1.25 to \$3.00 per suit. Illustrated Price Lists of Ladies' Dresses and Children's Hats, also Descriptive Price Lists of Ladies' Linen Suits, Dry Goods, Gloves, Hosiery, Notions, Carpets, Oil Cloths, Cutlery, Silver and Silver Plated Ware, Jewelry, Sewing Machines, Croquet Sets, Trunks, Traveling Bags, Groceries, etc. with full particulars, SENT FREE to any address.

**MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.,**  
227 and 229 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

#### THE KALAMAZOO

#### Spring Tooth Cultivator

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#### HARROW!

Manufactured by

**D. C. and H. C. REED & CO.,**

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*Saves Time and Money*

**TO THE FARMER.**

For Further Particulars send for Circular.

—o—

We refer farmers, by permission, to  
E. O. HUMPHREY, Pres. of State Agric'l Society,  
Wm. H. COBB, Pres. Kalamazoo Co. " " "  
and 200 of the best farmers of Kalamazoo Co.,  
who used this Harrow last season.

**D. C. and H. C. REED & CO.**

#### Brother Patrons in Michigan:

THE WISCONSIN STATE AGENCY has  
a fine Business Location,  
**At 214 WEST WATER ST.,**  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN,

AND IS MAKING  
**LARGE SALES OF PRODUCE DAILY,**  
FOR PATRONS IN WISCONSIN.

We have every facility for handling Fruit for Patrons, who will ship to us from Michigan.  
*The Agent is under proper bonds; will make Correct and Prompt Returns; will Mail Shipping Tags and Market reports. We invite trial shipments of any articles of Produce that can be sold to advantage in this city.*

Address **L. G. KNIFFEN,**  
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#### ESSEX PIGS.

A fine lot of Young Pigs, descended from Imported "NEGRO," and Agricultural College Stock, for sale at reasonable prices.

Correspondence Solicited and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Address, **H. HAWLEY,**  
Burr Oak, St. Joseph Co., Mich.

#### 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.

*W. 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 HIMEBAUGH, 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.  
CAIN HIMEBAUGH, Bronson, Mich.

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