

THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE **EXECUTIVE**
Michigan State



COMMITTEE OF THE
Grange, P. of H.

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J. J. WOODMAN, } Publishing Committee.
J. T. COBB, }

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A Square is one inch in space, column width.

It is not the purpose of the Executive Committee in continuing the publication of the *Visitor*, by direction of the State Grange, to deviate from the course first marked out in February last, which was to furnish the most direct, complete and cheapest medium of communication between the officers and members of the Order throughout the State.

We hope Masters and Secretaries will not fail to call the attention of members to every matter of general interest, which appears in the *Visitor*.

Communications on any subject, calculated to promote the good of the Order, are solicited.

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

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THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

Centennial Encampment of the Patrons of Husbandry, at Elm Station, (on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, less than three miles from the Exhibition Building.)

The following is a circular from Bro. Thomas, Secretary, of the Centennial Encampment Association. We first thought to cut down the circular, but soon concluded that the information was all wanted not only by Patrons for whom it is especially intended, but for all other individuals and societies, who are to be benefitted by the very liberal arrangements of the managers of this model institution. This circular confirms us in the opinion we have entertained even since the project was determined upon, that this enterprise will do an incalculable amount of good, not only in promoting the good of our noble Order in a thousand ways, but kindred organizations will be aided, and the fraternal and beneficent character of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry be established beyond question.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

President, Dr. M. Steck, Grange, No. 27, Pa.; Vice-President, Wm. H. Dallett, Grange No. 60, Pa.; Treasurer, Townsend Walter, Grange No. 60, Pa.; Secretary, R. H. Thomas, Secretary Pa. State Grange.

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The management of the Centennial Encampment Association beg to announce the completion of the largest Summer Hotel building in the world, containing over 1,200 rooms, and capable of comfortably entertaining from 3,000 to 4,000 persons daily.—This project was specially designed for the accommodation of members of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, Agricultural Societies, Farmers' Clubs, Sovereigns of Industry, Temperance Organizations, and kindred societies, with their friends, who purpose visiting the great Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, individually or in bodies.

The buildings are 496 feet in length by 450 feet in depth, situated on a good elevation at Elm Station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, ten minutes' ride from the entrance of the Exposition Grounds, affording a healthy location, pleasant promenades, romantic and picturesque scenery.

The rooms are each furnished with a new double bed, (mattress and springs,) chairs, table, wash stand, ewer and basin, and a mirror.—the walls are neatly papered and the doors provided with a lock and key. The building is lighted with gas, and well ventilated, and the rooms, with the exception of 100, are located on the first floor, conveniently connected with the offices, dining rooms, wash rooms, closets, etc. Rooms *en suite* to any number for families and parties, and apartments for ladies unaccompanied by gentlemen.

The reception, promenade and sitting rooms are large, pleasant and convenient.

The dining room is 320 feet in length and 80 feet in width, capable of seating 1,000 guests at a time, without crowding. It is under the management of Brothers Jones & Phillips, of Grange No. 198, North East, Erie county, Pa.—gentlemen of character and ability—who may be depended upon to furnish their tables with an abundance of the best provisions the market will afford, as well as all the delicacies of the season. They have engaged the services of Mr. Z. Martin, of Titusville, of Pa., who has had thirty years' experience as caterer and manager at popular summer resorts. This department will therefore be unsurpassed by any hotel in Philadelphia or vicinity.

On the grounds are located offices of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Adams Express, Pennsylvania Railroad baggage and ticket offices, U. S. post office, and every convenience and facility for the transaction of business or the sending of news.

Laundry work, under the supervision of competent parties, will be done at reasonable prices.

A large hall, 80 by 140 ft., has been provided, in which Grange and society meetings, lectures, entertainments, etc. will be held frequently, and every effort will be put forth to make this feature attractive and enjoyable to guests during the time of their sojourn at the Encampment. The hall will be used for religious services on Sabbaths.

Lawful business of every description will be conducted on the grounds. No intoxicating liquors sold on the

premises, and the Board will see that this regulation is strictly carried out.

For the convenience of the guests at the Encampment, trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad will leave and arrive at the grounds every half hour, carrying passengers to the new Pennsylvania Railroad depot, at the entrance of the Exhibition, in less than one-seventh the time it would require from Ninth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, for the moderate charge of 15 cents a round trip.

Hourly trains to and from Philadelphia will accommodate those wanting to visit the city, day or night. These railroad arrangements are a decided advantage over street passenger railway cars, as it requires at least forty-five minutes time to run from Ninth and Chestnut streets to the Exposition Grounds, while guests at the Encampment will be carried from their hotel to the Exposition in ten minutes, and not be subject to the disagreeable inconvenience of over-crowded street cars.

A competent police force, watchmen, a fully organized Fire Brigade, safes for the deposit of money and valuables, accommodating clerks and attendants have been appointed and provided, so that the comfort and safety of all who visit the Encampment will be assured.

Good spring water will be pumped into a large reservoir and conducted by pipes through the buildings, for cooking and drinking purposes, and hose connections arranged for immediate service in case of fire.

A comfortable building has been erected in a pleasant and retired portion of the grounds for hospital purposes, and placed under the care of a competent physician. Should any of the guests be so unfortunate as to become ill while at the Encampment, they may rely upon being well cared for.

Several of the managers of the Association will be on the grounds from the time of opening the Encampment until the close of the season, and every effort will be put forth to insure the comfort, convenience and safety of guests.

While this Association has been organized for the benefit of the Patrons of Husbandry throughout the United States and Canada, and the entire Board of Managers are members of the order, it is not intended to exclude persons from the Encampment who are not members of the order. On the contrary, entertainment will be open to Sovereigns of Industry, Agricultural societies, Temperance organizations, Masonic, Odd Fellows, and Mechanics' lodges, etc., and to all persons of good moral character, who bring recommendations with them from officers of National, State or Subordinate Granges, councils, lodges, or societies, or the members of those organizations in their respective localities.

As it is the intention of the Board of Managers to exclude, as far as possible, all persons of improper character, they earnestly request all their guests to bring with them their trade cards, certificates of membership, or letters of recommendation, and to introduce no friend into the Encamp-

ment who does not bear a fair, moral record at home. These precautions are taken for the safety and benefit of the guests themselves.

Terms:—Room (double-bed), per day, \$1.00. Meals, each, 50 cents.

Tickets for rooms and meals will be sold at the Treasurer's office, in the Encampment building. *Guests will not be required to pay for meals they do not get!*

The Restaurant department will sell cheap lunch-packages, neatly put up, for the accommodation of those who desire to visit the Exposition grounds and remain there all day. Every precaution will be taken to prevent imposition on our guests, both at the Encampment and the Exhibition grounds.

Rooms may be secured in advance by giving ten days' notice to the Secretary of the Association. Individuals and Granges holding stock in the association will have preference in the engagement of rooms when the Encampment is crowded.

The stock books of the Association will remain open until about the first of June, and subscriptions received at par value—fifty dollars.

Certificates of stock will be received, at their face value, in payment for boarding and lodging at the Encampment.

Letters containing subscriptions to stock, engagement of rooms, or asking further information, will be promptly attended to and acknowledged, if addressed to R. H. THOMAS, Sec'y, The Farmer's Friend Office, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

The Fifth Degree.

A worthy brother asks us to give our views of the Fifth Degree. This we can now do, as we had the pleasure of taking it with a class of 16 at the last meeting of the St. Louis County Grange on the first Saturday in April.

We have always insisted that the higher degrees should be opened to all who may, by strict trial be found worthy to join, or else be abolished. This we still hold should be the case. The degree itself is very beautiful, and is calculated to make a member a better member of the human family, a better Patron, if that be possible; and we should like to see it opened to all deserving members. One thing we can assure all that have not taken it—it is nothing that is so bad as many have supposed it. There is nothing whatever in it that tends to create a class or caste, the only objection being the way in which it has heretofore been forbidden to all but a very few. But in many states this restriction has been practically removed, so that there is a chance for the really worthy to join. We should like to see the brethren take hold of it better and organize more Pomona Granges. The Order at large would be greatly benefited by it, we assure them.

Such are our views of the Fifth Degree. We should like to see the two higher degrees opened so that all that may be considered worthy can join, then and not till then will all cause of complaint about them be removed.—*The Grange Correspondent.*

—Livonia Grange No. 268, Mich., is building a hall 20x42 feet.

From the Farmer's Friend.

A Visit to the Encampment.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1st, '76.

Being a subscriber to your paper, although not a member of your Order, I thought I would visit the Patrons' Centennial Encampment, and show it up to the many readers of your very interesting and instructive paper, as one not in the Order sees it.

Hearing that the Patrons were erecting a hotel at Elm Station, for the purpose of accommodating the many thousands of the Order who intend to come this way during the next six months to see the Centennial celebration, I thought I would go, see and report. Consequently, on last Saturday morning, I wended my way to the Pennsylvania Railroad depot, Thirty-first and Market streets, and took passage on the 10 o'clock train. After a short but very pleasant ride, I arrived at the grounds. Judge of my surprise; instead of finding a solitary hotel, I saw long rows of substantially-built houses, (any of which would make an ordinary-sized hotel,) all connected in front by a large, two story facade building, and in the rear by a magnificent dining hall. I at once presented my passport, (which was in the shape of a letter furnished me through the kindness of C. E. Gladding, your State Purchasing Agent,) introducing me to Mr. Kingsley, whom I found to be a gentleman in every sense of the word. By him I was conducted through the various apartments, and had everything fully explained, showing him to be master of the finest details, and the right man in the right place. The rooms are large and the ventilation excellent, and will no doubt be very comfortable—as I understand they are to be furnished very neatly, but not gaudily. The dining hall is the largest I have ever seen, and having traveled considerable in my time, have consequently been in a great many. I should judge from the size, that from two to three thousand hungry Grangers can have the wants of the inner man attended to at one time. The water arrangements are very fine; the Encampment being furnished with clear, cool, sparkling spring water, from a running stream a few yards from the dining hall, and forced through the building by means of an engine. The catering, I understand, is to be equal to that of the first-class hotels of this city, which are now charging from five to six dollars per day. If this is the case, and I don't doubt but that it is, why the managers will be very much pinched for room before the great Exhibition is over. We have plenty of families in this city, who, (if it were allowed,) would like to spend the summer months at the Encampment, at the low rate of two dollars per day, in preference to remaining in this unusually scorching hot city, or going to some sea-side resort at the rate of twenty-five dollars per week, and then suffer on returning home with a severe attack of indigestion, brought on by eating half cooked substantial and fancy dessert.

The location of the encampment is excellent; the air is pure and bracing, and the arrangements throughout as

nearly perfect as can be made in any temporary hotel.

The train arrived on time, I left Elm at 12:06 noon, and arrived safely in this city of Brotherly Love and big shows, so well pleased with my visit to the Patrons' Centennial Encampment, that I shall endeavor to repeat it at some future time, when you shall again hear from
SCRIBBLER.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

THURSDAY, May 4th.

The Encampment buildings are almost completed. They attract general attention and approbation. Several hundred rooms will be ready for guests by Wednesday. The city is filling up rapidly. R. H. THOMAS.

WORCESTER, MASS., April 26, '76.

R. H. THOMAS, Sec'y:—The very generous proposal of your board of managers to entertain the members of our order during the Centennial, upon the same terms as are offered to Patrons, has been considered, and unanimously accepted by our National Committee. In conveying to you this information, permit me to express my warm appreciation of the kindly personal interest you have taken in these negotiations. May the rank and file of these two grand armies of reform, through the influence of weekly reunions during the Centennial, receive an inspiration that shall lift us all to the highest heights of noble endeavor. Cordially and fraternally yours,

WM. H. EARLE,

Pres't National Council, S. of I.

From the Farmer's Friend.

THE SECRETARY of the Centennial Encampment Association will, in a few days, mail to every Grange in the United States and Canada, a handsome guide book, descriptive of the great Centennial Exposition and the railroad routes by which it may be reached in the shortest time and at lowest rates of fare. The book will also contain full information in reference to the Patrons' Centennial Encampment, its advantages as a home for farmers who visit the exposition, terms for lodging and board per day, etc. It will be addressed to the Worthy Master of each Grange, but is intended for the use of all the members. Any Master failing to receive the book by the 10th of May will please write by postal card to R. H. Thomas, Mechanicsburg, Pa. Grange and agricultural papers throughout the U. S. and Canada will confer a favor by publishing this item.

No DOUBT there will be many Grange picnics during the coming summer and fall, and they will be fully as interesting as those of previous seasons; but the great Patrons' picnic of the Centennial year will be held at the Encampment, near Philadelphia. Here will be assembled for the space of six months, members of the Order from every State and Territory of the Union. Officers of National, State, District and Subordinate Granges will meet and discuss matters pertaining to the good of the Order. The unwritten work will be compared and made uniform, lectures on various subjects will be delivered by able members of the Order, and social ties

will be formed which will last through life.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW.

General Rules on Law and Usage.

(CONTINUED FROM APRIL NUMBER.)

39. "A person must apply for membership to the Grange nearest his place of residence, unless he obtains its permission to apply elsewhere."

40. The term *residence* in the above rule is defined to mean, such a residence within the jurisdiction of a Grange, as would be necessary to entitle the individual (if a voter) to vote under the laws of the State.

41. The Order of Patrons of Husbandry is not strictly a temperance organization, "yet temperance is supported;" and to wrong a brother or sister of the Order, either by the excessive use of intoxicating liquors, or sale of such liquors to others as a beverage, would be a violation of obligation.

42. Charges may be preferred against a member of the Order, for engaging in a business, which in its effect, wrongs the person, property, or family of any member of the Order; and the accused may be tried, and if found guilty, suspended or expelled upon such charges.

43. A Grange cannot reconsider its action in electing or rejecting a candidate, or expelling a member.

44. In cases where justice and the rights of the accused seem to demand it, a Grange may by a two thirds vote, grant a new trial.

Patron Farmers of Michigan.

By request of the Governor of the State, I accepted a position on the State Centennial Board, and have been laboring in connection with the duties of the Master's office, to make collections of samples of the products of Michigan soil, for the Centennial Exhibition. I appointed over forty superintendents in as many different agricultural counties in the State, to make collections; and received assurances that samples of the products of the several counties in the State would be collected and forwarded as directed. Not more than one-third of these superintendents have responded at all. A few have done well, and I have received some very fine collections, that do credit to the State, but the quantity received is so insignificant, that prompt action must be taken to fill the space allotted to Michigan in the Centennial Buildings. Every other department is well filled; and must the Agricultural Department be neglected?

There is not a Grange in the State, but what could furnish a barrel of samples, of the different kinds of grain and other products raised in its locality, that would be a credit to it, and the producer; and I now call upon the Patrons of the State to assist me in this work. I ask the Master of every Grange in the State to call the attention of his Grange to this subject; and if possible, collect samples and forward immediately; and also to request members of the Order,

and farmers generally, to be on the look out, for the finest samples from the coming crop; to be forwarded when matured. But the present wants must be provided for first. Our space *must* be filled by the first day of June; and I appeal to members of our Order, to take a deeper interest in this matter; the good of the Order, the interests of the farmers, and the reputation of the State demands it. Collect and send us the best and purest samples of all the different varieties of grain raised in your locality, in quantities from two quarts to one bushel. We must have more *corn in the ear*, more wheat, oats, barley, rye, &c., in fact more of everything. Put all cereals in *cloth sacks*, and pack closely in barrels or boxes. Corn in the ear should be packed in oats when both are sent together, so as to prevent shelling and marring the ears. All Granges that resolve to respond to this call, should inform me at once of that fact, and send me a list of all articles and samples forwarded.—Write plainly upon each package, the name of the article, name of producer, where raised, yield per acre, and such other facts as may be of interest.—Send by express to F. W. Noble, Sec. of Mich. State Board, care of N. Vanhorn, 732 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. All express charges will be paid at Philadelphia by the Secretary of the State Board. All labor in collecting, and samples, must be gratuitously furnished.
J. J. WOODMAN.

GLEANINGS.

—The Grangers of the United States have over \$18,000,000 invested in their various enterprises.

—The Grange work loses more by lack of punctuality in its members than from any other cause.

—The Grangers in California ask the State Legislature to fix the fees of attorneys in all cases where no contract is made.

—The Patron farmers of Morgan Co., Ohio, are going to run their own county fair this year, to the exclusion of the fast horse element.

—The financial report of the Executive Committee of the National Grange, for the quarter ending March 31st, shows \$2,693.26 as the amount of quarterly dues forwarded by Treasurers of State Granges during the quarter, and \$5,010 received for 314 dispensations issued during the same period.

—The Patrons of Virginia have two special subjects under consideration just now—the Tobacco extortions and swindles, which they are stoutly resisting, and the dictation of manufacturers. This last matter stands about thus: Hunter & Frost, makers of the "Farmer's Friend" plows, insist that Grange agents who sell for them shall exact the full retail price which other agents do; the Patrons object, averring that as long as their agents pay the regular price to the makers, it is nobody's business what they sell at, and the Granges are taking very strong ground in the matter; in short, refusing to have anything to do with Hunter & Frost at all. Perfectly right.

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.

PLASTER.

Combinations, Present Condition and Future Prospects.

The determination of large numbers of the farmers of this country to introduce some improvement into the manner of doing business where they were interested parties, which is one of the features of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, has met from the beginning the determined hostility of very many members of other classes of society.

This hostility has not unfrequently cropped out in unexpected quarters. That middlemen who had always derived a living at least, if they had not accumulated fortunes, should object when invited to step down and out is no more than we might expect. That all manufacturers should at once be ready to accept of the farmers' innovation, was not to be expected, certainly not that class whose wares were but in small part consumed by farmers. From other manufacturers whose goods were solely made for the agricultural part of the community, the Patron had a right to expect to establish friendly business relations at once, when he offered to pay the manufacturer the price for his wares in *ready money*, that he was selling the same goods for, to intermediate parties on long credit.

But we find this class of manufacturers have been no more willing to accede to the demands of our order than the other, and although the trade of Patrons is now sought for by many of the largest manufacturers of agricultural implements in the country, yet in very few instances was this point reached until combinations had been circumvented and beaten by the persistent and determined efforts of the farmers of our Order.

In this State, we are to-day, where our bretheren farther west were a year or two ago. A combination of plow manufacturers a score or so in number propose to dictate to the thousands who buy and use plows, who these thousands shall buy plows of, and if one of them is applied to by a farmer for a dozen plows he is politely told, "We can't sell to you sir, we have an agent in your town or county, who will see you all you want."

The large plow manufacturers of Illinois talked and acted that way two years ago—they don't now—the plowing ring was broken, and the Patrons in Illinois and Iowa who want plows order and pay for them to the mutual advantage of both parties.

I don't suppose our plow and plaster manufacturers are very much smarter than their western neighbors, nor do I suppose their five years arrangement to keep middlemen between the manufacturer and the consumer will pay much on the investment.

Manufacturers who combine and declare war on their customers, and are so wilfully blind to their own interests as to persist in sustaining a system of

agencies that practically means long credit, expensive collections, and a percentage of loss equal to a fair living profit, will, the most of them even if they are grey now, probably live long enough to find out their mistake.

No, Gentlemen manufacturers—it may be smart, sharp practice, long headed management or shrewdness of some sort to place yourselves in an attitude of hostility to your customers. But your position is untenable. You do violence to the spirit of this progressive age, when you assume that the *system* which you have combined to sustain and perpetuate cannot be improved—that as your goods went to consumer through the hands of an agent ten years ago, of course no innovation should be allowed.

The National Grange in its famous Declaration of Principles declare that the Patrons of Husbandry "desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible. Hence we must dispense with a *surplus* of middlemen, not that we are unfriendly to them, but *we do not need them*. Their surplus and their exactions diminish our profits."

Soon after the order was well established in this State, we undertook to make arrangements to deal directly with the manufacturers of plaster.—That effort has been from time to time renewed with results well known to the Order.

The manufacturers combined and we were invited to conform strictly to the regulations adopted by these dozen men, for one year. Before the year expired, the combination was enlarged and strengthened, and the time extended to five years, which I suppose was expected, not only to cover the life time of the Order, but its death burial, and the decomposition of its remains.

Last year some of our people accepted the terms offered, and some done without plaster. From the situation last fall we had hoped to be somewhat independent of the combination this spring. We were at no time however sanguine that the supply would equal the demand, and though but a small part of the orders sent us for plaster have been filled, and though our efforts to secure independence have not been entirely successful yet, progress has been made that we think ensures ultimate success. Those of us who have been mixed up in this plaster business from the beginning, feel very well satisfied with its present status.

Plaster has not been furnished to our waiting brothers as fast as we expected when the April Visitor was issued. The work of mining was prosecuted by Day & Taylor, under the direction of an experienced foreman, and pushed forward as fast as the facilities at hand would permit.—But to go down through the lower Strata of rock and hoist it to the mill level in huge box like buckets proved to be rather slow work. All that could be got out was ground and shipped up to Monday morning, the 1st day of May, when a large spur wheel on the main shaft broke into fragments, and the work of grinding came to a stand still for more than a week. The mill machinery was from Buffalo, and the

broken wheel must be replaced from the same shop. The mining of rock was continued, though the mill was idle. Grinding and shipping have again been resumed.

The disappointment has been bravely met by all our friends who understood the situation; of course some few have blamed me for not sending them plaster according to our promises or their expectations. We don't feel a bit hurt on that account, as I know when this plaster matter is fully understood as it will be, there will be no cause for fault finding. As I said in the April Visitor, the business was new to Bro. Weston, the enterprise was larger than he could successfully manage—his machinery was not all put in as it should have been, and consequently one misshap followed another, and expectations that were founded on probabilities have not been realized. We are satisfied that under the new management with available capital this state of things will continue but a little while longer.

Messrs Day & Taylor are doing the best they can with every thing as they bought it, to supply the present pressing demand. As soon as that is over, the machinery will be re-arranged by a first class mechanic, with whatever additions are necessary to insure success.

They have ample time to make all necessary alterations, and get out rock to supply all the Patrons of the State next year. To our friends in any part of the State who can still use a car load this spring, we say send forward your orders and they will be filled as soon as possible.

WE wish to correct an error of omission in the April VISITOR, with regard to price of By-Laws. Last year the price of By-Laws of State Grange in price list of supplies was 30c per doz., which was just enough above cost to cover postage. As now printed, with Constitution of the National Grange, and Codes of By-Laws for Pomona and Subordinate Granges, recommended by the State Grange, it is a pamphlet of 34 pages, on which the postage is ten cents per doz. As this cannot be furnished at the old price, except at a loss, we have corrected the price list and all will please remember and remit accordingly, that the price is, single copy 5c, or 50c per dozen.

THE charters for nearly all the Pomona Granges organized in this State, are still in this office subject to order. I hope Secretaries of those Granges will send me a report as required by Rule 38 in Master's department of the April number of VISITOR, and also give directions as to their charters.

THE following subordinate Granges are entitled to their charters: Nos. 507, 546, 547, 584, 586, 587, 592, 593, 594, 603, 604, 605. These charters are put up ready to be sent by express, when I receive directions *where* and to *whom* to send.

WE get orders from Secretaries every week for articles found in our supply list, with prices annexed, in which the writer states that he would have sent the money if he knew the price. We think this is a poor ex-

case, when the VISITOR is sent to Secretaries free, and every number has the price of all supplies that we keep for sale. Please don't send us any more orders for jewels or anything else not found in our PRICE LIST.

If any Secretary is without a supply of Blanks for Quarterly Reports, give me notice and they will be sent at once.

—Blank Receipts for membership dues, bound, 50 cts. per hundred.

SINCE writing up the situation of plaster supply and prospects, for this number of the VISITOR, my attention has been again directed to the false reports which are being circulated throughout the State, which are calculated to mislead not only the general public, but also Patrons who have not kept posted as to the facts.

Even papers that are friendly to our Order, or ought to be, like the *Michigan Farmer*, have editorially given aid and comfort to the Combination. The Executive Committee is not wholly made up of dolts, but includes some successful business men, and we are surprised that the agricultural editors of the *Farmer* and *Tribune* should, like the common news monger, who wants items not facts, give currency and endorse rumors that reflect upon the Executive Committee, and are injurious to this large organization of Michigan farmers. The facts were within easy reach, and could have been had at any time. It has been reported, and we find very generally believed, that a large amount of money had been drawn from the Treasury of the Michigan State Grange to aid H. O. Weston, to develop his plaster enterprise at Grandville, and that Granges and individual members had sent money to Mr. Weston for plaster, which was not furnished, nor the money refunded.

No part of any of these statements is true. The members of the Executive Committee did become personally liable for an advance to Mr. Weston, and of the amount of money so advanced, all has been refunded but \$3,500, and a part of that will be repaid before the 1st of June next. At no time has a dollar been drawn from the Treasury of the State Grange, or from any Subordinate Grange or from any member of the Order, other than as stated. Nor has any Grange sent Mr. Weston any money for plaster that it either has or has not received.

All orders on Mr. Weston for plaster from Granges, have passed through this office, as have all collections, and the only complaint has been that the supply of plaster has not equaled the demand; a complaint that will not be renewed after thirty days. The property is now in the hands of energetic business men, of ample means. Strata of 16 feet of plaster rock of the best quality, remarkably free from flint or other foreign matter, have already been worked, and there is more below. It is an established fact that no better mine has been opened in the Grand River Valley than this one, which will in future supply "The Granger Plaster Mill."

J. T. COBB,
Sec'y Michigan State Grange.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKEGON.

Duties of Officers.

(CONTINUED.)

LECTURER.

The Latin has given us this word, being derived from *Legere Lectum*, to read.

In the Grange the Lecturer is the instructor. To instruct others presupposes ability, a fund of information, and in these years of progression continual research and study to be able to instruct. A Lecturer should then be the general teacher or leader in the moral, mental, aesthetical work of our Order, at least have that work in charge, inducing others to assist him in all fields wherein he is not himself proficient.

Among farmers and particularly in the newer portions of the country, there are but few who have had a liberal education and are thus qualified to instruct, yet there is scarcely a Grange in our State which has not some member (Sister if not Brother,) who has good general knowledge, and who by industry and effort would make a good Lecturer, and many in the position not themselves directly capable as they should be, may by tact so employ the assistance of other members as to give his Grange valuable instruction; leading its members to successful research in the broad and beautiful fields of thought that lie unexplored before them.

Brother! Lecturer of—Grange, you have been elected to and hold position; what are the duties you have attempted to do, that you may strive to do them well?

When installed you were charged with the instruction of the members. A broad field of labor. You are to give instruction in the principles of our great calling, Agriculture, and recite to your brothers and sisters the well established results of the application of these principles in practice, and thus incite your neighbors to profit by what has been established, and to venture with due caution upon the fields of further trial and experiment. The fields with their culture, the orchard, the garden, the farm buildings, the forest and its preservation, the domestic animals and their improvement, the dairy and its management, with their minute divisions, each and all needing attention, are themes for the Grange Lecturer. But the house and home must not be forgotten.—The dwelling in which we enjoy the fruits of our farm labor needs your attention, Worthy Brother. The convenience, comfort and attractiveness of the habitation has much to do with the happiness of the inhabitant, and are not a large portion of our members spending their time doing their work in-doors? Our homes too are giving the early lessons to the rising generation, who, the children of today, are to be the men and women of to-morrow. The character and habits of the rising generation will largely depend upon their *Home Instruction*. Then our homes, their structure, surroundings and decoration, are properly questions for instruction in the Grange,

and so also are the subjects of food, clothing, home amusements, mental, aesthetic and social improvement.

The Lecturer should not always stay within their limits, broad as they are, but deal also with roads and their structure, schools their support, markets and their location, and all other questions in which the farmer and his family are interested.

The means of giving instruction:

1st. By Lecturers or familiar talks by the lecturer, or some one whom he may induce to do it, either for his own or some neighboring Grange. 2d. By selecting judiciously articles of interest and general information to be read by some member of the Grange, and after the reading, have the Grange indulge in a general discussion of the subject and its local adaptation. 3d. Selecting questions for debate. The question should be announced at a previous meeting, and one or two members selected to write or speak upon the question, to lead in the debate. Every member could be thus led sooner or later to take part in discussion and to prepare for it.

The Lecturer should take great pains to gather all the unwritten work and be ready at any and all times to instruct by exemplification if desired to do so by the Master or the Grange. To do this, he should visit other Granges and study the lituration of the Order, to inform himself. The design of the signs, signals and emblems and their philosophy, all should be familiar to him. How to make meetings interesting and instructive to secure the best attendance, and the promptest work all demand his attention.

In the absence of both Master and Overseer, the Lecturer if present, should at the proper time call the Grange to order, and filling the vacancies go to work.

That the Lecture may have means to inform himself, every Grange should have more or less books or papers for his use and study. The Monitors and Guides and books named in the 1st article should be accessible to him. But to his special charge and use, I would recommend the "*Mentor in the Grange*." He might, with profit, read it in course to the Grange.—Books on farming, gardening, fruit culture, &c., should be at hand. Especially would I recommend each Grange to take papers for the Lecturers use—such as are not generally read by the members. I will name a few:—The *Household* (monthly), \$1.00. The *Michigan Farmer* (weekly), \$2.00. *Stock Journal*, and every member or family at least should have the *Visitor*, a long list could be had, and \$5 to \$10 be well spent by any Grange to secure such papers and books.

An energetic Lecturer would soon set on foot measures that would begin the work of collecting a Grange Library. A few volumes to begin with, would soon grow into a valuable collection, the pride of every member a strong bond to bind them together.

Now, worthy Lecturer! don't think it impossible to do your whole duty. Don't be idle because you had not all the necessary aids, but work! work faithfully, and pleasantly with what you have and soon you may be able

to command more. Be sure you are right in all your instruction, and then lead others into the channels you have explored, on to the heights you have scaled, and receive your reward in beholding their joy in receiving the truth you have discovered.

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, - CENTREVILLE.

Patrons' Attention.

It has long been the practice of many Farmers to put off the time of procuring their implements and supplies until they are in actual need for immediate use, and then to either send their orders for delivery on short notice; or go to the nearest dealer and pay perhaps fifty per cent above what they could have procured the same article for if they had purchased a few weeks before. To carry on any business successfully, whether it is farming, manufacturing or trading, it is necessary to study carefully all circumstances which have an influence and bearing on the pursuit. The Farmer should understand his soil, climate and markets, and raise the crops best adapted to his surroundings.

Few labor for the pleasure of it, but for profit, in order that gain may come thereby; therefore the Farmer should cultivate the crops that will yield the best money returns. The secret of success is to produce what is needed at the smallest outlay of labor, and in order to do this, the best implements should be used in preparing the soil, cultivating and harvesting the crops. This is a necessity in these progressive times, to which our business must conform if we would succeed in the race of life.

The Farmer who neglects to use the best improved plows, cultivators, mowers and harvesters will fall behind his neighbor who does, and will constantly complain of hard times, poor crops, low prices, and the want of Greenbacks.

No Farmer can afford to pay twenty-five per cent to agents and commission men for implements and depend on the proceeds from his crops to support his family. This is precisely what is done when you buy a tool from the black coated gentleman who rides in his top carriage to your door with plows for your benefit, whose tongue is oiled and horses fed from the proceeds of your work; whose family is clothed in silks, while yours are clad in coarse materials, and who dwells in fine houses, built by your labor. How long will you continue to be blind to your condition, and be pointed at as mud-sills and dependents.

These men cannot sell on long time at cash prices, even if you mortgage your crops and farms to them or their coadjutors. A pay day will certainly come, which you will have to meet, perhaps when prices are low for your produce and you will be compelled to take whatever the buyer chooses to give, in order to keep the officer of the law away.

When you need tools go to the master or secretary of your Grange for advice on the kind you want, and assistance if necessary in buying; turn

your backs on all the smothered tongued gentry traveling the country for your benefit. Pay for every article you buy, just when you buy it.

I have an arrangement for the Home Sewing Machine at rates considerably reduced from previous prices of this machine. It is sent on trial as heretofore, when if it does not equal the warrantee it can be returned. I have ordered a number and have not yet known of any failing to give satisfaction.

The Buckeye reaper and mower is also offered at a fair discount so that I can fill any orders for them at short notice, if these machines are preferred. The Gale manufacturing company with whom I had agreed for plows and rakes, have declined to fill orders for their goods, and I have now agreed with the St. Joseph manufacturing company of Mishawaka and the Reaper and Machine Company of South Bend, Indiana, for their plows at wholesale rates. I believe these plows to be equal in every respect to any cast plow made. I have also on hand a number of the Kalamazoo Diamond and the Dodge No. 20 Steel Mould-board Plows at cost prices; also the Battle Creek Iron Beam Chilled Plows.

I must again request all to give their post-office and county in writing to me if an answer is expected, as I cannot spend the time in consulting lists and directories to find out where letters are from that have no name of post-office or county or seal attached to the letter, which I must insist on in all cases where the correspondent is not a master or secretary of a Grange or an acquaintance, so that I may know that the writer is a member of our Order, otherwise I can not answer.

I have agreed with a dry goods house at Detroit, to fill all orders which I send in their line at New York quotations adding freight; so that any Grange sending me an order with the money the goods will be sent direct from Detroit to the party ordering, and if there is any surplus money it will be returned with the bill of the goods; but they notify me that they can't fill orders at these prices coming from different persons.

For stoves or hardware, iron, nails, &c, glass, paints and oils, will be furnished at wholesale prices. All kinds of groceries can be sent from Detroit or Chicago at lowest rates. The Buchanan Wagon Company now offer their work as low as any manufacturers and solicit orders.

Nearly every Farmer or his boys can make the wood work for a harrow, and when solid steel teeth can be had for ten cents a pound, it is economy to get the teeth and any blacksmith can make a heavy pair of hinges for a couple of dollars, which with a few bolts is all that is needed to get up a harrow as good as one costing \$20.00; and you can make any size or style desired, and it learns the boys to use tools and furnishes work on rainy days and odd times.

Plant corn in all parts of the State where it does well and is not generally killed by early fall frosts. Raise less wheat and more corn. Corn can be fed to advantage to all kinds of stock, from horses to chickens, and even men can subsist on corn-bread. The mar-

kets of the world are over-stocked with wheat and flour, and prices are down below the cost of raising and sending to market from many parts of our country; while the price of meats and dairy products is still remunerative. A bushel of corn fed to each sheep during the winter will make an increase of very near a pound of wool per head at the spring shearing over that of the sheep which is not fed some grain, and the wool is also, of a better quality; besides the animal will be in a good condition for the butcher with a little more feed at a time when fat mutton brings a good price.

Fine corn meal fed to cows will increase the quantity and quality of the butter made from their milk in a very perceptible degree, and impart a rich color and a better flavor. I think that it pays well to give a small feed daily through the year. Farmers generally understand the value of corn in making beef and pork.

Soak your seed corn in a weak copperas water over one night, and dry it with plaster or ashes at planting in all places where it is troubled by cut worms, and it will be scarcely touched by them. Try it on a part of your field if you are doubtful and note the result.

"EVERY day Patrons send us bills of hardware and list of articles on which to quote prices. These prices in the majority of cases go before the local dealer, who has the second bid. It takes valuable time to make up this information, and in nine cases out of ten we are bid under by the local dealer who will not suffer the loss of trade even at a loss of all profit. Patrons would be surprised did they know to what extent the agency is used as a mere fulcrum to pry over. We propose to reverse the process. Send us the estimates given by your local dealers and we will beat them from ten to thirty per cent, or return you your order with advisement of facts in the case."—L. G. Kniffen in Wisconsin Bulletin.

This statement of Brother Kniffen's is equally applicable to Michigan, and I now propose to follow the practice which he indicates, and if any one wanting my prices will first send the prices for the same description of goods from their dealers, I will then furnish prices, otherwise I shall refer them to general dealers in the city, as I don't choose to be used to beat down prices at the doors of patrons. I have now satisfactory arrangements so that I can fill orders in quantity for dry goods, groceries, hardware, boots and shoes, paints and oils and all kinds of farm tools at wholesale prices, and have sent a list to the secretary of every Grange in the State who has reported to the secretary of the State Grange.

—The Grange co-operative store at Tipton, Mo., on a capital of \$1,400, sold in the month of February, goods to the amount of \$1,600. In March, with capital increased to \$2,200, sold \$2,500 worth of goods. The managers retailed at about the prices of other stores, but giving the purchasers who belonged to the organization, dividend tickets in proportion to the purchases made.

Communications.

For the GRANGE VISITOR.

DISCO, April 8th, 1876.

A worthy brother in a previous number of the VISITOR propounded some pertinent questions in relation to plaster as a fertilizer. Now, dear VISITOR, as light is what we are all seeking for on this as well as all other subjects that relate to our business as agriculturists, with your permission I will give the views I have acquired by reading, observation and long experience, on the constituent elements of plaster, and the benefits to be derived from its application to farm crops.

In the first place, allow me to say that plaster is largely composed of lime, which is generally understood to enter largely into the growth of most of our cereals, especially that of wheat. Hence plaster to a certain extent, is a fertilizer. But Professor Johnson, and likewise Prof. Kedzie, of our own State, informs us that plaster is composed of lime and sulphuric acid, in different proportions, some beds of gypsum having more of the former and less of the latter, and *vice versa*. Now when lime and sulphuric acid are combined or united, they have a strong attraction or affinity for water, and as they attract moisture from the atmosphere, it necessarily brings along with it such fertilizers as are set free by the decomposition of vegetable or animal substances. Hence, the application of plaster not furnishes moisture to the growing crops, but the moisture furnished from the atmosphere brings along with it, ammonia and carbonic acid gas, both of which are powerful fertilizers, and thus enables the roots of clover and other farm crops to penetrate deeper into the unbroken subsoil, and bring up from below those fertilizing elements that there lie dormant.

It will therefore be seen that plaster not only extracts food for plants from the subsoil below, but it purifies the very air we breathe, and converts the impurities into the growth of our farm crops. But let us not forget that plaster is also a wonderful stimulant, and as such enables the farm crop to draw largely from the vegetable mold or farm yard manure in our soil, which must forever underlie a high state of cultivation. Therefore, to derive the greatest amount of benefit from plaster, it is necessary to make the soil rich with manure or some vegetable mold, and then apply plaster, and we shall receive satisfactory results. And while we behold the beautiful working of those laws gleaned from the book of nature, which an All Wise hand has so gratuitously spread out before us for our inspection, let us not forget the source from whence they come.

W. A. WALES.

AT A QUARTERLY meeting of the Detroit and Bay City Councils of the P. of H., held at Metamora, April 4th, 1876, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, There are some grievous and radical defects in the present Grange organization that demands prompt redress, and

WHEREAS, It is not only the prerogative, but the imperative duty of all fourth degree members of our Order, to discuss any and all questions that relate to the welfare and prosperity of our noble Order; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the P. of H. of the Detroit and Bay City Council in convention assembled, that all degrees above the fourth being only honorary in their design and effect, ought to be abolished.

Resolved, That the principle that requires a member of our Order to be elected to one position before he, or she, is eligible to another, is contrary to the spirit and genius of American institutions, and should be changed; and all fourth degree members—in good standing—in our Order, are eligible to any position from the subordinate to the National Grange.

Resolved, That the recent acts of certain State Granges refusing to ratify the constitutional amendment that would allow each State Grange to fix the minimum fee of membership within its own limits, is contrary to that good will and fraternal feeling that should characterize every member and organization of our Order, and should receive as it justly merits, the condemnation of every true Patron.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be sent to the GRANGE VISITOR and also to the Michigan Farmer, for publication.

W. A. WALES,
JOHN THOMAS,
ANNIE HALLS, } Com.

H. GROFF, Sec'y.

The reflection upon the action of certain State Granges contained in the above, for not ratifying the Constitutional Amendments relating to fees and dues, does not seem to be in harmony with the principles of our Order. Freedom of thought, due respect for the opinions of other members of the Order, and an untrammelled vote upon all questions, in the Grange, are three of the main supports of our organization. Take them away and the structure must fall. It is fair to presume that every State Grange, acted in good faith upon the amendments, and their action is entitled to the respect of every member of the Order, whether that action agree with his particular views or not.

MORENCI, April, 1876.

Brother Cobb.—Will you please give this item space in your paper.

I sent to Messrs. Smith & Ensign for a chest of tea. The tea was much better than sample, and saved to us 32 cents per pound. Now I wish every Patron would deal through the Grange and let the middleman alone. I would recommend Smith & Ensign to all brother Patrons. We find we receive benefit by buying from headquarters. Bought garden seeds of Charles Lizer, of Mount Lebanon, N. Y., and saved a large profit to ourselves.

A. I. SUTTON,

Purchasing Agt. Morenci Grange, No. 280.

HARTFORD GRANGE, No. 89.

Worthy Bro. J. T. Cobb:

It is with pleasure that I send you an addition to the list of subscribers for the VISITOR from Hartford. Some of us would not do without this valuable little paper for three times what it costs us. If every Patron in the State of Michigan would take the VISITOR and read it attentively, we might hope to be more successful in our efforts to promote the welfare of the farmers. Our Grange at Hartford is prospering slowly but surely. Most of us are disposed to investigate each subject presented for our consideration, and in business matters mean to be careful before we take any responsibility. We do not mean to take any step backward, but to keep in mind the wise maxim of Davy Crockett, "be sure you are right, then go ahead."

G. W. FELLOWS, Sec'y.

Hartford, Mich., April 24th, 1876.

COREY, May 5th, 1876.

Worthy Secretary:

DEAR SIR—As I often see statements in the VISITOR and other periodicals, that in their nature will mislead, therefore, by permission, I would like to make a statement through the VISITOR. But lest some should form wrong conclusions, I wish to state my position. I do not suppose that the persons making those statements have any intentions to mislead, but are thoughtless, or have not a proper knowledge of circumstances as they are; I will only refer to one statement.

Wherever Pomona Grange have been organized, they are working in harmony and are productive of good! Our experience is, that there has not anything

hurt the Order in St. Joseph Co. as has the organizing of the Pomona Grange; it has created contention and is working injury to the Order. Therefore our advice to subordinate Granges is to be careful how they organize Pomona Granges.

Brethren, let us take action in subordinate Granges, Councils and Conventions, and petition the National Grange to abolish all degrees above the fourth, then that bone of contention will be removed, and probably the Order will work in harmony. Fraternally,

A. P. SHEPARDSON.

The writer of the above does not seem to understand the necessity of an organization, through which all the Granges in a county or district can have direct and regular communication with each other.

ANYBODY or any paper that expects to secure any permanent advantage by making war upon the Grangers, as a body, will come out minus their expectations in the long run. Any trader who countenances such conduct on the part of any individual or paper, thinking to make gain thereby, will miss his mark. Anybody who expects to make his bread and butter out of the failure of the Grange movement, will soon find himself going hungry. Grangers are not as exclusive in their purchases as some people imagine. They do not discriminate as much as is generally thought; but when they or their friends, who are legions, go into a dry goods store or grocery or other place of business and find papers laying about upon the counters which are making constant attacks upon themselves and their Order, it is not in poor fallible human nature to expect them to buy or come again. Even the Saviour turned in disgust from his betrayer and bid him go away.—Pacific Rural Press.

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Patron's Pocket Companion, by J. A. Cramer, Cloth, 60 cts., Morocco with tuck, .	1 00

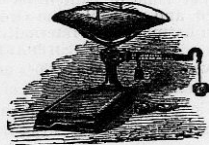
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JONES,
OF
BINGHAMTON,
N. Y.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE.

To Patrons:

We are personally acquainted with EDWARD F. JONES, generally known as JONES of Binghamton, President of the Jones Scale Works of Binghamton, N. Y., and are somewhat familiar with the Scales manufactured by him, and know they are reputed to be first class.

From our knowledge of him and them, we say freely to the Order of Patrons of Husbandry that it is our opinion that he is worthy of their confidence and will make good all representations made by him.

He was one of the first to make concessions in prices to the Order, and never to our knowledge, has failed to deal fairly with them.

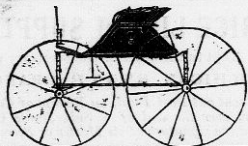
WM. G. WAYNE, Chairman, }
JOHN O. DONNELL, Sec'y, } Ex. Com.
L. H. BISHOP, }

WM. A. ARMSTRONG, Sec. N. Y. State Grange
Ex-Officio Member Executive Com.

We also refer to Bro. J. H. Gardner, Michigan State Agent, who has had one of our Stock Scales in use several years and through whom Scales may be ordered, or direct to us. Send for free Price List and Discounts to Patrons.

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P. P. C.

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