

GRANTEE VISITOR

"THE FARMER IS OF MORE CONSEQUENCE THAN THE FARM, AND SHOULD BE FIRST IMPROVED."

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Address, J. T. COBB, Sec'y MICH. STATE GRANGE, Schoolcraft, Mich.

Annual Address at the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry—19th Session.

Patrons of Husbandry and Members of the National Grange.

As representatives of our great Agricultural Brotherhood, we have come from the Middle States, from the great Northwest, from the Pacific slope and the sunny South, to meet our brothers and sisters of New England in this historic city. One year ago we met in the beautiful city of Nashville, in the State of Tennessee, which boasts of having furnished two Presidents of the United States, whose ashes repose in its sacred soil and whose tombs are under the watchful and paternal care of the commonwealth. To day we meet near the spot where the Pilgrim Fathers landed and planted the first New England colony. It was here where the first form of constitutional government upon this continent, based upon political equality and recognizing as its crowning glory and excellence, its chief conservative principle, the paramount authority of the Divine Will, was founded. We are assembled to-day near the place where the first resistance to British tyranny was made, and within a few miles of the battle-field where the first blood of the Revolution was shed. We are almost under the shadow of the monument which marks the spot where the battle of Bunker Hill was fought, and where the gallant Warren fell, and among a people who hold proprietorship of that ancient and spacious hall, which history has denominated the "cradle of liberty."

Coming together as we do from every portion of our common country, and holding our annual sessions in the great business and commercial centers of the nation, widely separated from each other, fittingly demonstrates the importance of our calling, the nationality of our organization, and that in our purposes and our fraternal work we recognize no North, no South, no East, no West, but, as citizens of one common country, are working together in a common cause. We have reason to congratulate ourselves upon the favorable auspices under which we have assembled in this nineteenth annual session of this body. The present year has been one of usual health and prosperity to our people. No pestilence has visited our land, and the earth has yielded an abundant harvest. The principles which underlie our organization, and the purposes we aim to accomplish, are becoming better understood and appreciated by the American farmers, and the glorious work of our Order is going forward with unabated zeal. Then let us with thankful hearts render praise to the Great Dispenser of all good, and invoke His benediction upon our cause, and His aid in our deliberations.

ORIGIN OF OUR ORDER.

Much has been said and written upon this subject; and it is recorded that on the 4th day of December, 1867, in the city of Washington, the Order was formed. But the circumstances and events which inspired the thoughts and action of its founders had their origin long anterior to that event. The germ of civil liberty planted upon these shores by the early colonists, and subsequent events which culminated in the establishment of a form of government based upon the natural equality and inalienable rights of all men, laid the foundation for an intelligent and independent agriculture upon this continent. It is a part of the history of the stirring events which resulted in the separation of the colonies from the mother country, that farmers were called upon to fight the battles for liberty, and subsequently to sit in the councils of the nation. Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence and a true friend of agriculture, declared that his confidence in the perpetuity of republican institutions in this country was based upon the fact that agriculture was to be the chief occupation of the people. Washington, the farmer President, in his fourth annual message to Congress, recommended legislation to aid and encourage this great national industry, and the committee having the matter in charge reported a bill for creating a National Board of Agriculture, to be composed of "the Judges of the Supreme Court, members of the Cabinet, and of the National Congress." The apparent ludicrousness of creating a National Board of Agriculture to be composed of judges, cabinet officers, and members of Congress, will, in a measure be dispelled, when we reflect that at that time cultivators of the soil were frequently to be found among the counselors and law-makers of the nation. This bill did not, however, become a law, and it does not appear that any farther attempts to aid agriculture by national legislation were made until 1839 when Congress appropriated \$500 to be expended by the Commissioner of Patents in collecting agricultural statistics. The Commissioner of Patents was thus made the national guardian of the agricultural interests, and foster father of the Agricultural Bureau. Small appropriations were annually made thereafter for this purpose until 1862, when the infant Bureau was taken from its unnatural guardian and independent protector, and made a separate and independent department. The act of Congress creating it, was the first friendly recognition which this interest had received from the government and to the organization of this new department can be traced the culminating circumstances which resulted in giving birth to the "Order of the Patrons of Husbandry."

Contrary to usage and precedent, but for reasons which have never been fully explained, positions were given in the department to two true and earnest friends of agriculture. William Saunders, a practical and scientific pomologist and horticulturist, was placed in charge of the gardens and grounds, and O. H. Kelley, a practical and representative farmer of Minnesota, was given a clerkship. Mr. Saunders had previously been engaged in organizing and conducting associations of gardeners and fruit-growers, both in Great Britain and in this country; and as early as 1855 he published an article in the *American Farmer*, in which he "deplored the lack of organized unity among farmers," showing at length some of the unjust burdens the farmers were compelled to bear, and that notwithstanding they were largely the majority of the laboring classes, and far more numerous than all the professions combined, they were seldom represented in legislative bodies or cabinets, and had little, if any, influence in the government of the country."

As a remedy for these evils and grievances he recommended "the formation of a national organization, to embrace all persons interested in agricultural pursuits, in which to combine their power and influence, and thus procure their full and proper share in the government of the States and the Nation." The plan proposed "township or district societies; representatives from these to form county societies; these by representatives to constitute State societies, and these again to be represented in a National society, to supervise and direct the interests and affairs of the entire unit." It will be seen from this brief reference to Mr. Saunders' plan that it virtually embraced the organization and general purposes of our Order, except its ritual and its secret signs and tokens of recognition. But it does not seem to have met with any favorable response from the farmers of the country; at least there is no account of any effort being made to put the suggestions into practice.

It was not until Mr. Kelley, familiarized with the condition and necessities of agriculture by practical experience in farming, took his position in the Department in 1864, and subsequently traveled through the Southern States under instructions of the Commissioner of Agriculture, to collect statistical information upon the resources of the South and condition of its agriculture, and by him, that the necessity of a great agricultural brotherhood, national in character and unsectarian in its work, was presented to the understanding of intelligent and thoughtful men and women, with such well grounded reasons and unflinching faith as to elicit their careful investigation and inspire them to action. Whether Mr. Kelley had ever seen the article published by Mr. Saunders twelve years before or not, does not appear, but if he had, it could not add to, or detract from, the honors which belong to each, as originators of our fraternity. It is presumable at least, that the idea of such an organization was original with Mr. Kelley, and incited by the stirring events which were going on around him. In Washington he had an opportunity to see and learn something of the potent influence which combine to direct the executive work, and shape the legislation of the country. He saw the commercial interest, the manufacturing interest, the mining interest, the banking interest, and the great railroad interest, all largely represented in both branches of Congress, and in every department of the government, and all thoroughly organized with national, state and local organizations, aided by the best legal talent of the nation, ever at their command, and co-operating together to so influence and mold legislation, as to turn the steady and constantly flowing stream of wealth, which the toiling husbandmen of the country are constantly pouring into the avenues of business, into their own coffers. On the other hand he saw the greatest interest in the country—agriculture, in which more than one half of our entire population were engaged, unorganized and without representation in the law-making or other departments of the government,—powerless before this mighty array of organized and incorporated wealth which was exercising with unscrupulous arrogance unjust franchises purchased by the inordinate use of money obtained by legalized extortion from the products of husbandry.

Although the garments dyed in blood had passed away, and the country was again undivided and indivisible, yet in his southern travels, blackened ruins, abandoned fields, and desolated homes met his gaze on every hand. The South and no small portion of the North, was furrowed with graves, and the whole land was shrouded with mourning, and peopled with crippled, wounded, dying soldiers, while in thousands of desolate homes "grief was completing the carnage of war," and a deep and intense bitterness engendered by the events of the cruel and unnatural struggle existed between the people of the North and the South.

With Mr. Kelley's observing habits and active mind, he naturally took in the situation, and came to the conclusion, (using his own language) "that politicians would never restore peace in the country, and if it came at all it must be through fraternity; the people North and South must know each other as members of a great family, and all sectionalism be abolished." He expressed these sentiments in a letter written while in the South, and to his friend, the Rev. John Trimble, an officer in the Treasury Department, on his return to Washington; and then went to his home in Minnesota. He must have seen in his homeward travels, that poverty, and the depressed condition of farmers, was not confined to the South alone, for on the rich prairies, and all along the valleys and hill-sides of the West, could be seen farmers living in hovels, before which as Whittier says: "A tree casts the tremulous shadow of its leaves across the curtainless window, from the broken panes of which flutters the signal rags of poverty," while their rickety barns were fairly bursting with the products of their labor, and the men who handled and manipulated these poor farmers' grain, were living in palaces, surrounded with all that wealth and luxury could afford. In all this he saw a great wrong, and became more deeply impressed with the necessity of an organization among farmers, for the protection of their interests, education and elevation of their class, and for restoring friendly feelings and unity of action, between the people of the North and the South.

He returned to Washington in the fall of 1866, and took a position in the Postoffice Department where he became acquainted with Wm. M. Ireland, an officer in the same Department, and J. R. Thompson, an officer in the Treasury Department, and sought their counsel in relation to the importance of such an organization. By mutual consent the trio consulted Wm. Saunders, whose early expressed views, and well digested plan of such an organization must have been of great value in their consultations. Subsequently the Rev. A. B. Grosh, of the Agricultural Department, F. M. McDowell, a pomologist of Wayne, New York, and the Rev. John Trimble, were added to their number; and the seven composed the founders of the "Order of the Patrons of Husbandry." For five long years, this immortal seven—spending such time as could be spared from their vocations—toiled with thought and unremitting diligence, in discussing the principles and features, and forming plans for the organization, and in framing a Constitution Ritual and the Esoteric Work, before it attained sufficient prominence to attract the attention, or excite the curiosity of the world. It has been said that the founders of our Order

were not farmers. This is not strictly correct. As already stated, O. H. Kelley was a practical farmer, and F. M. McDowell was born on a farm, and has been engaged in agricultural pursuits nearly all his life, living on and cultivating his own farm, orchard and vineyard. John Trimble was the son of a teacher, who owned and cultivated a farm, which is still held in the family. Hence his early education and life interest have bound his feelings and sympathies firmly to agriculture. It is said that A. B. Grosh was a farmer's son; of this I have no reliable knowledge, but his life's work showed him to be the farmer's friend. I am certain that the agricultural interest has but few firmer or more devoted friends than William M. Ireland, but whether he has ever been directly engaged in rural pursuits or not, I am not advised.

J. R. Thompson was the son of a farmer, and was born upon a farm. During his youth and until he attained the age and stature of manhood he resided upon a farm and was constantly and laboriously employed in farm work—such work as is only performed upon the stubborn and reluctant soil of Northern New England. He has carried with him through his subsequent life the knowledge of his early practical experience of farm life, and love for and sympathy with the class with whom he was born and educated.

William Saunders is the son of a farmer, and spent several years working on a farm, and until he was apprenticed to the professions of horticulture, forestry and kindred pursuits; and from that time until the present he has been and still is actively engaged in these labors. His whole life has been devoted to the study and practice of rural industries in their widest range, and to all phases embraced in the cultivation of the soil. His professional labors in the Agricultural Department have been of great value to the country.

I have given this brief summary of the circumstances and causes which brought our organization into existence, as prefatory to an attempt, at least, to answer the questions so often asked, "What has the Order accomplished?" and "Is it fulfilling its mission?"

The true mission of the Order is indicated by the necessities and events which brought it into existence, and is clearly expressed in its Declaration of Purposes; that document has been before the world for more than a decade, eliciting admiration and challenging criticism. It will, therefore, be seen that our organization was founded upon the necessities of agriculture, and the principles which underlie it, if carried out, comprehend all that is required to place our interests and our class on a plane of prosperity approximating to that enjoyed by other great interests.

It was never intended that its work should be to tear down, but to build up; not to level the palace, but to change the hovel to a pleasant and comfortable home, not to deprive the favored ones of a single advantage they now enjoy for literary acquirements, but to bring the means of obtaining a higher education, more suited to the farmers' calling, within the reach of all the children of rural homes; not to take from any class or interest a privilege or right which legitimately belongs to them, but to secure for ourselves and our posterity, the social, moral and intellectual privileges which rightfully belong to us; and to enjoy without hindrance the fruit of our labor; not by the power of numbers to assume political control and arbitrarily attempt to shape the policy of the nation, but to bring farmers to the front, that their voices may be heard and their influence felt in the councils of the nation.

For the accomplishment of these objects have its officers and members labored, and the result must be apparent to every observing mind.

In 1873 when farmers were moving in the work of organization, and the Order had obtained a foothold in nearly every State, the agitation of the question of correcting by legislation the abuses which railroad corporations were practicing in freight charges, began. The farmers of the great Northwest had voted taxes upon themselves, subscribed to stock, and mortgaged their farms to build the roads, in the vain hope that they would realize not only interest and dividends upon stock subscribed, but better prices for their farm products. But in all this they were doomed to disappointment. The money was used, stock absorbed, and farms sold under the mortgages, and a system of spoliation in freight charges established by the companies which would have disgraced the Feudal Ages; and the managers of the corporations were raised as if by magic, from gentlemen in comfortable circumstances to millionaires. No wonder farmers organized to resist these encroachments upon their rights! No wonder, that for once, at least, they tore themselves from party ties, held conventions, and nominated and elected men pledged to represent their interests! And it was not strange that legislative bodies thus elected should pass laws for correcting, as far as possible, these abuses, and giving relief to a wronged and oppressed people. Laws thus enacted, were resisted by the companies, under the plea that they were operating under general laws and special charters, and were therefore above and beyond legislative control. There was scarcely a statesman or lawyer in all the land that did not coincide in this theory. The companies were prosecuted, however, and the cases went into the courts. The parties to the suit were, practically, the farmers of the country, in their newly organized capacity, versus the great railroad corporations. These cases elicited great interest among all classes. Statesmen, attorneys and journalists gave thought and study to the questions involved. Horace Greeley was the first man of national reputation who espoused the farmers' cause, followed by Senator Carpenter, of Wisconsin, Senator Windom, of Minnesota, Judge Black, of Pennsylvania, and others.

The National Grange met in St. Louis in February, 1884, and the first appeal to Congress to regulate inter-State commerce was made at that session by the Order through its national organization. The Senate appointed a committee of which Senator Windom of Minnesota was chairman, to investigate the complaints against the report was made, and more than sustained all the charges and complaints made. The report signed it, save one, and every member who sat in the Senate, and most of them, it is alleged, through the influence of railroad managers. The cases in court finally reached the Su-

preme Court of the United States, and from that high tribunal came the decision which was hailed with joy by the people everywhere, that "When private property is taken for public use it is subject to public regulation," and that "The power to regulate the same is in the legislative department of the government."

The Board of Railroad Commissioners of Massachusetts, in their first annual report after the decision was made, paid a very high compliment to our Order, in declaring that the action of the farmers of the West, in prosecuting the railroad companies and obtaining this decision, is worth more to the country than their organization had cost. On the other hand the President of the Central Pacific railroad, of California, denounces the decision as "A most flagrant violation of the principles of free government, and entirely in harmony with the theory of government which vests its foundation on might, and asserts the divine right of kings." He further declares that "The communists and the agitator Kearney advocated no doctrine in regard to property more atrocious than the principles embodied in the Granger cases, and the laws they sustain."

This was our first triumph over the "tyranny of monopolies," and if the advantages gained have not been followed up and maintained by the necessary legislation to remove all the evils complained of the fault has not been with the Order, but with the farmers themselves in failing to use it as a medium for accomplishing that object; for every National Grange, and almost every State Grange, that has met since that time have memorialized Congress and State legislatures, and thousands of earnest petitioners from the Subordinate Granges have added their supplications for relief.

A bill was introduced into the Forty-fourth Congress by Judge Reagan of Texas, for "regulating inter-State commerce," which this National Grange and nearly every State Grange endorsed, and for the passage of which our whole fraternity labored and petitioned. This bill passed the House of the Forty-fifth Congress with 35 majority, but found its winding sheet and final resting place in the Senate, where the railroad influence seemed to have concentrated its strength and fortified against the prayers and influence of an oppressed people. A bill containing the same just and wise provisions was again introduced by the indomitable Reagan, and passed the House of the last Congress, but met the fate of its predecessor in the Senate. The Senate did, however, pass a substitute for the bill, providing for an expensive Railroad Commission—to be appointed by the President and Senate and paid by the people's money—to make regulations for companies engaged in inter-State traffic. I am satisfied that the action of the House in rejecting this measure was in harmony with the views of our members and public sentiment generally; for experience has shown that the smaller the body or commission having public interests in charge, and the farther the appointing power, which creates it, is removed from the ballot box, the less interest will it have for the people's rights, and the more potent will mercenary influences be to control it. A committee was then appointed by the Senate to take evidence and collect information upon this subject during the recess of Congress, and report to that body at its next session what legislation, if any, is needed to regulate the railroad business of the country. It is to be hoped that this committee will be as faithful to its trust as was that headed by Senator Windom in 1874, and there can be no good reason why it will not be. But if the members do their whole duty they will not take evidence from railroad officials and large shippers alone, for the farmer are interested witnesses and the latter care only for uniform rates; but they will switch off their palace car at way stations, go out among the farmers, see where they live, observe their surroundings, and learn of them what it costs to raise a bushel of grain, a pound of beef, pork, or mutton, the price it brings them at the depot, and the cost of shipping the same to the sea-board, or place of consumption; then compare the farmers' profits with those of the transporters and shippers, and they will then have some correct data from which to draw their report, and frame a bill that will be just to all parties alike. I received a circular letter issued by the committee, soliciting answers to certain inquiries therein contained, which I endeavored to answer in accord with what I understood to be the expressed views of this body. I herewith submit the same. The work of our Order, in this contest with the railroads, has not been confined wholly to efforts to secure friendly national legislation for farmers and the public interest. Through its direct influence most of the States have already enacted wholesome laws regulating railroad traffic within their borders, and a most wonderful change has been wrought in public sentiment. We have now many public men who dare to stand by the people in this contest with monopolies, and the people stand by them at the ballot box.

Political parties no longer hesitate to declare in favor of regulating both State and inter-State commerce, and to recognize the importance of agriculture to national prosperity. President Arthur, in his message to the 48th Congress, says:

"No individual and no corporation ought to be invested with absolute power over the interests of any other citizen or class of citizens; and it seems but just, that so far as its constitutional authority will permit, Congress should protect the people at large in their inter-State traffic, against acts of injustice which the State governments are powerless to prevent."

This recommendation embodies all that we have ever asked at the hands of Congress, and just what the Reagan bill was intended to accomplish; and to the Senate alone must we attribute our defeat. But let us withhold judgment until Judge Cullom's Committee makes its report and that body has an opportunity to reconsider its action.

Through our organized influence we have also endeavored to procure an amendment to the Patent Law, so as to give some degree of protection to innocent purchasers and users of patented articles, making the manufacturers, and vendors, with their agents and accessories, alone responsible for infringing patents, and not the innocent user, who has purchased in good faith in open market, without any intention of violating the law. Such a bill was prepared and passed the House of the 47th Congress, but was entombed in the Senate.

We have also labored long and well to secure the passage by Congress of a bill to elevate the Agricultural Department, extend its scope and influence, and give the Commissioner a position in the President's Cabinet where he can have a voice and vote, and direct influence with the government, in shaping its policy, and in protecting the agricultural interest, from which the nation draws its very life-blood of existence, from the grasping avariciousness of combined and incorporated wealth. A bill for this purpose passed the House of the 47th Congress by the necessary two thirds vote, but like the other measures for the relief and protection of agriculture met with no favor in the Senate. The following from one of the leading national journals is one of the arguments used to defeat this measure: "An officer whose legal functions do not take him outside of the domain of seeds, fertilizers, potato bugs, and the diseases of cattle, is not absolutely essential as a cabinet minister."

And yet, there is not one of the great nations upon the European continent but has its Minister of Agriculture, occupying the same position in the government that Cabinet ministers do in ours. These three measures were defeated in the Senate by the combined influence of corporations and individuals, who fatten and grow rich at the expense of agriculture. A prominent attorney of one of the great railroad corporations has been credited with saying: "We have lost our power in the States, in the House of Representatives in Congress and in the courts; and our only remaining hope for maintaining our vested rights is in the United States Senate." If the power of monopoly is being driven from State legislatures, the popular branch of Congress, and the courts, and is entrenching itself in the United States Senate, our tactics must be changed and the enemy stormed in his stronghold.

It is a question which merits our consideration, whether or not "a government of the people and for the people can be safe, with the members of one branch of it, which holds the balance of power, and controls the appointment of all the important officers of the government, so far removed from the suffrages of the people as United States Senators are."

I have referred to these questions—so important to the public welfare—to show to the members of our fraternity, to the American farmers and the American people, some of the measures of reform which have been inaugurated and prosecuted by our organization, the progress made, and where the responsibility of the defeats we have suffered, rests.

EDUCATION AND ELEVATION.

Our greatest achievements are not, however, to be found in our efforts to secure favorable and friendly legislation for our interests, but in the great work of educating and elevating our class. When our Patrons' ship was first launched upon the great ocean of public turmoil and strife in 1873, farmers and their families were, to a very great extent, isolated from each other in their social and business relations, plodding single-handed and alone in their work of cultivating their farms and endeavors to support their families from the products of the same. They were unaccustomed to the discipline of close organizations, ritualistic work or parliamentary usage. Farmers were seldom found in places of public discussion, or occupying the rostrum. The agricultural literature of the country was confined to a few volumes, containing only the cogitations of theorists in agricultural science, and a very limited number of poorly patronized journals to which few practical farmers furnished contributions. But few could be found who favored a higher education for farmers' sons and daughters and agricultural and industrial schools and colleges had but few advocates. Well developed muscles and a disposition to use them, was considered to be the surest means of success in farming.

When Congress made an appropriation to endow agricultural colleges, many farmers were either too indifferent to their own interests, or prejudiced against such schools to appreciate the favor, and in several States allowed other institutions to seize upon and appropriate the funds to their own use and benefit, satisfying farmers with a department of agriculture, and that in name only, but sufficient to answer the requirements of the law.

He who fails to see and acknowledge the great change that has been wrought, and the influence which our Order has exerted in producing the same, certainly cannot be credited with any great amount of discernment.

Farmers, with their wives and children, have come together in the Grange, cultivated sociability, friendship and confidence in each other, submitted to useful discipline, learned parliamentary usage, accustomed themselves to read and recite in public, write and read essays, and speak in debate and on the rostrum. Coming together as a band of brothers and sisters, under pledges of fidelity to each other and a firm resolve to cultivate a higher manhood and womanhood for themselves, they have been inspired to labor with diligence in their efforts to excel, to emulate worthy examples and conduct themselves with circumspection. By cultivating respect and esteem for each other the ties of fraternity have been strengthened. By taking an active part in the literary work of the Grange, a greater desire for useful knowledge has been created, and the shelves and center table better supplied with books and journals. Under the direct influence and teachings of the Grange thousands of rural homes have been beautified and their surroundings made more cheerful and attractive; and many sad and despondent hearts have been made to rejoice in happier homes and more endearing family ties. The early care and training of children has received attention, and many parents have been made happier in realizing its salutary influence upon the lives of their sons and daughters, and their growing attachment for home, and in being able to keep the loved ones upon the farm.

Work and business operations upon the farm have been systematized, and the burden of labor lightened. Farms have been better cultivated and made more productive. Live stock has been improved, more humanely treated and better cared for. Farmers have been made to read and think and investigate and act for themselves, consequently have become more self-reliant and independent. They have been induced to take more interest in public affairs, and being better qualified to do so, are often called to fill public offices, to preside over conventions and deliberative bodies, and to address public assemblies. It is a fundamental principle of the Order to provide for our children the means for obtaining a higher and more practical education, and better suited to the farmer's calling. Hence we have advocated for every State an independent Agricultural and Industrial College, with an experimental farm attached. The fruits of our labors in this direction are to be found in the great and growing prosperity which has attended these institutions during the past few years, and in the establishment of Experiment Stations in several States; also in the introduction into Congress, of a Bill providing for a National Agricultural Experiment Station in each of the several States of the Union. Congress should be memorialized for the passage of this measure.

SECTIONALISM ABOLISHED.

As already shown, it was a part of the mission of the Order, to ally, as far as possible, the sectional prejudice and bitterness which had been engendered by the events of the war. Representative men and women, who were Husbandmen and Matrons, representing the great agricultural interests of the North and South, assembled in this National Grange, seized each other by the hand, exchanged the fraternal grip of the "Good Patron," and as brothers and sisters of one great family seeking each other's good and

each other's interest, formed an abiding friendship for each other, and cemented it by the ties of brotherly love. They separated and returned to their several homes, disseminating these feelings and sentiments among their brethren of the Order, and their neighbors and friends. Annually, for eleven years, representatives from the Subordinate and State Granges have come together, bringing and returning messages of peace and good-will. I utter it as my firm conviction, that our organization has done more to allay sectional bitterness and restore good understanding and friendly relations between the peoples of the North and South, than all other influences combined.

In addition to all this it has been well and truthfully said:

"The Order of Patrons of Husbandry has enabled farmers to put their impress upon the government of many states; it has provided ways by which great savings have been realized; it has taught farmers the strength of numbers, and the potency of organized effort to accomplish useful purposes. Above all and beyond all these material advantages, it has elevated the standard of manhood and womanhood in the representatives of a great industry, where muscle before, was regarded as superior to mind; it has made farmers more worthy citizens, and has given their families higher consideration. Its principles are in accord with the strictest rules of morality, and its teachings have tended to refine and elevate all its members."

Truly, our Order is fulfilling its mission, and has already accomplished a great work, which no careful observer can fail to see and acknowledge. And yet there are broad and unfinished fields of labor before us, and new ones constantly opening up to our view.

OUR SCHOOLS.

That our schools and the educational system of the country have not kept fully up with the times and the demands of our great civilization the following testimonials will indicate. One of the oldest and most popular professors in West Point has said:

"That the young men who apply for admission to that military institute are not so well versed in the rudiments of an English education as were the young men of the last generation."

He attributes this change to the pernicious habit which has grown up in our public schools of trying to give the young a smattering of many studies, but no sufficient knowledge of any of the ordinary branches which used to be taught quite thoroughly twenty or thirty years ago.

General Walker, late Commissioner of the U. S. Census Bureau, in an address before the National Teachers' Association said: "That the tendency of all our higher schools is to magnify clerical and professional work, at the expense of hard labor."

It is in these schools that the men and women who do much to mold public sentiment and give shape to our laws are trained. Is it any wonder then that our land is filled with young men and women who look upon labor as ignoble and degrading, and will sacrifice honesty, morality, and all that is good and virtuous in the human character to avoid it?

"This Upas tree of injustice, monopoly and caste, under whose baleful shadow the sweet flowers of humanity wither, and whose bitter fruit the millions eat and die, has its roots in the false education of our youth."

We want a class of schools and system of instruction, which shall bring the means for a practical education suited to the wants of every condition of life, within the reach of every child in the community. We want a system which shall include manual labor in conjunction with, and as an essential part of intellectual culture, develop strong bodies, active intellects, a love for work and contempt for idleness; and fit men and women for the industrial pursuits, as well as for "clerical and professional work."

If our free institutions and our national fame are to be saved from that "pit of luxury, sensuality and corruption which swallowed up the lost nations of olden times," such a system must be secured; for only such training of the young can give to our country a race worthy of its name and grandeur, and fit to achieve its magnificent destiny.

CORRUPT USE OF MONEY IN ELECTIONS.

Another barrier to our work, and danger to our institutions, is in the corrupt use of money by corporations, political parties and candidates, to control elections. This practice is antagonistic to every principle of a democratic government, gives a lie to the doctrine of political equality, and invests concentrated wealth with absolute power over the people in electing public officers and shaping the policy of the government. Governor Bell, of New Hampshire, in his inaugural address in 1881, said: "The improper use of money to influence popular elections is a crying evil of our times. It has become so general that little or no secrecy is made of it, and that well-meaning men assume to justify it. But nothing can be more fatal to the fate of our free institutions. When the largest purse secures the election to office, we may bid farewell to liberty and virtue in the government."

The New York legislative committee appointed to investigate the management of the Erie railroad in 1873, in their report, said: "The evidence exposed the reckless and prodigal use of money, wrung from the people, to purchase the election of the people's representatives, and to bribe them when in office."

The report of the Railroad Commissioners of Georgia for 1881, in referring to this subject, said: "The moral and social consequences of these corruptions are even worse than the political; they are simply appalling. We contemplate them with anxiety and dismay. The demoralization is worse than that of war—as fraud is meaner than force, and trickery than violence. Aside from their own corruptions, the operators aim directly at the corruption of the press and the Government."

Governor Gray, of Indiana, in his message to the Legislature in 1881, said: "In my judgment the Republic can not live long in the atmosphere which now surrounds the ballot-box. Moneyed corporations, to secure favorable legislation for themselves, are taking an active part in elections by furnishing large sums of money to corrupt the voter and purchase special privileges from the Government."

If money can control the decision of the ballot-box, it will not be long until it can control its existence.

Evidence of the existence and effect of this corrupting practice could be multiplied, but the above will suffice. The power to abolish it and purify elections is with the several States; and we can do much through our State and Subordinate organizations to enlighten the masses and arouse public sentiment to frown upon the evil and demand reform.

THE CAUCUS SYSTEM.

I am inclined to the opinion that if farmers ever acquire the influence in politics and public affairs which their numbers, their intelligence, and the importance of their vocation entitle them, a radical change must be made in the prevailing system by which nominations to office are made. In a recent and valuable work on "The American Caucus System, its Origin, Purpose and Utility," by the Hon. George W. Lawson, I find the following very sensible and—to my mind—wise and practical suggestion for reforming our present caucus system. The author says:

"Avoid large assemblies. Do not bring the electors of a large and populous district into one caucus. Increase the number of caucuses by assigning so small a territory to its jurisdiction that the number of all the electors within it will not be too great for every resident to be known by

light to his fellows. This may easily be effected in the country, as a caucus there can be assigned for each small political division, as, for example, a school district. * * * In cities, give a caucus to every one, two, or three blocks, requiring one for one hundred, two hundred, or three hundred people—three hundred should be the maximum number."

Under our present system for electing delegates to nominating conventions, the township caucus is generally held in the village or place of holding the elections. Farmers have many miles to travel to reach it, and as a rule but few attend. This is favorable for the scheming politicians, who, with an element easily controlled, can so manipulate them as to favor their own interest. Whereas, if the eight, ten or fifteen delegates to be chosen were apportioned to the school districts, and a caucus held in each to elect its one or two delegates, as the case may be, the influence of village saloons, or the one in the grocery upon the four corners, would in a great measure be avoided; and a much greater number of the prominent tax-paying citizens of the township would take part in selecting such delegates. This is a question worthy of our consideration, and a profitable theme for discussion in our Subordinate Granges.

FINANCE.

The condition of the finances of the National Grange will appear from the Treasurer's report, but I desire to call attention to the fact that in 1876 we had \$60,000 invested in Government bonds, but during that and the following year \$15,000 of these were sold and most of the money realized from them donated to the State Granges. From 1877 to 1882 our net annual receipts failed to meet current expenses and pay the cost of our annual sessions; and by the annual sale of bonds our investments were reduced to \$38,000. Since 1882 the receipts have met all expenditures, and kept a good working balance in the treasury. I am firmly of the opinion that the future prosperity and the perpetuity of the Order depends largely upon the continuation of this policy of exercising the strictest economy in every department of the National Grange, and that under no circumstances should our securities be reduced another dollar. The \$38,000 left are six per cent. bonds, and mature in about twelve years. They are now worth a premium of about 35 per cent. on a dollar, and if sold now would realize to the treasury the sum of \$51,300. As the time of maturity approaches the premium will diminish—hence the question of changing these securities should be well considered by those having charge of our National Grange finances.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER AND CONCLUSION.

The condition of the Order in the several States will be shown by the reports of the State Masters, but I am satisfied that it is generally good, and in most of the States prosperous. Since our last meeting a revival of Grange work has taken place in Connecticut, which will be noted with much interest. For five years a single-Grange had worked solitary and alone in that State with the motto of our Order, "ESTO PERPETUA!!", upon its walls. In January, 1885, the Master, Sherman Kimberly, reported forty-two members in good standing. In March following I appointed him General Deputy, with authority to organize Granges in the State. In January last he reported one new Grange organized, making two in the State with a membership of 131, and in July last he organized a State Grange with sixteen Subordinate Granges and a membership of 700. To-day there is more than 1,000 members enrolled in the books of the Subordinate Granges, and the representatives of that State Grange are now occupying seats in this body. Here is an example of faith and perseverance in Grange work worthy of imitation.

Indications of a reviving interest is also apparent in Nebraska. I appointed two deputies for that State, and two new Granges have been organized, and one re-organized, but no farther marked progress has been made. I am inclined, however, to the opinion that "fields in that State are now ready for the harvest," and that a good, competent lecturer would in a few weeks be able to organize a State Grange upon a permanent basis which would honor the Order and be a lasting benefit to the toiling husbandmen of that State.

Wherever the work languishes it is through a failure to comprehend the necessity of such an organization among farmers, or a want of a clear understanding by the members of its real object and purpose. Hence the work of enlightenment must be carried into the Subordinate Granges, by lecturers, special documents, and the Grange press.

SUSTAIN THE GRANGE PRESS.

The lecture system is a strong arm of support and effective in arousing men to action. It cannot be dispensed with and should be encouraged and strengthened; but it is expensive, and funds are not always on hand to pay lecturers. The National Grange cannot furnish lecturers for State Granges, and do justice to all, without exhausting its treasury. This would be an unwise and ruinous policy. Special documents are valuable, and should be as liberally supplied and as widely circulated as possible; but they are too expensive, and generally fail to reach the masses. In my judgment the Grange press is the cheapest and most efficient medium for the dissemination of information among our members, and for enlightening public sentiment that can be employed.

A good lecture, that costs ten dollars or more, may be listened to, and benefit a few hundred, or a few thousand persons; the same published in the score or more of journals devoted to the Order, at an expense too insignificant to mention, would reach two or three hundred thousand readers. I therefore urge that our Grange journals be encouraged by all means proper to use, and at our command, and their circulation extended as widely as possible.

In conclusion, I will say that we need a more marked revival in our work, and I mistake the signs of the times if we are not on the eve of such a revival. A revival in the religion of the Grange, if you please; for the Grange has a religion, pure and undefiled, which has been beautifully portrayed, together with the needed revival, by the Rev. Dr. Grosch—one of the founders of the Order and first Chaplain of the National Grange. Quoting in part from Dr. Cuyler, Bro. Grosch said: "The revival, then, which we need, is a revival of the religion which keeps God's commandments; which tells the truth, and sticks to its promises; which pays a hundred cents on a dollar; which cares more for a good character than a fine coat; which votes at the ballot-box in the same direction that it prays; which denies ungodly lusts, and which can be trusted in every stress of temptation. A revival which will sweeten our homes, and chasten our business and commerce from roguery and rottenness, would be a boon from heaven. A revival which will bring not only a Bible knowledge, but a Bible conscience, to all, is what the land is dying for. The world's sorest want to-day is more Christ-like men and women. The preaching it needs is more sermons in shoes."

"Then let the homes send into the Granges a continuous stream of accessions taught in such a revived religion; and but very few years—but a generation at most—would make all corrupt parties and rings and legislatures and congresses and grasping monopolies, so effectually things of the past that their mention would sound like that of the Deluge, or the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. And our homes—the homes of our land—how blessed would they be in the atmosphere of such a religion, thus constantly revived in the minds and hearts of their inmates! A heaven would each be—an earthly heaven to go to heaven in."

Then let us in our deliberations here, in our

State, County and Subordinate Granges throughout the land, with our tongues and our press, with our examples and our prayers, work together for this revival in our fraternal work.
J. J. WOODMAN.

Agricultural Department.

The Farmer's Bell.

BY I. B. MITCHELL.

I sing not of the solemn tones that come from churchly spire,
Nor cannons' boom, nor whistles' shriek, nor instrumental lyre.
But of the modern rural sound I've learned to love the most,
The often ringing farmer's bell that hangs upon the post.

Its metal, tho' of cheaper grade than copper mixed with tin,
Fails not at just the noonday hour to make melodious din.
It is the kitchen's soul and breath—potatoes, bread and roast,
Kings out the farmer's rusty bell that hangs upon the post.

The iron bell, the dinner bell that hangs upon the post.
And when the day of toil is o'er upon the dear old farm,
There's something in its iron tone that has a merry chime;
For its notes invite to chat and tea with those we love the most.

The kettle-sounding farmer's bell that hangs upon the post,
The iron bell, the dinner bell that hangs upon the post.
The farmer's bell proclaims of peace and plenty in the land,
'Tis the music of the "heart and home"—a happy household band.

And the nation's sinews, strength and pride, from east to western coast
Are the homes where rings the farmer's bell that hangs upon the post.
The iron bell, the dinner bell that hangs upon the post.
Most grand and most progressive age! Exalting to its place
The sphere of those who till the soil—ennobling our race;

And this gives spirit to my song—it is my pride and boast
To live in the time that popularized the bell upon the post,
The iron bell, the dinner bell that hangs upon the post.

Wheat.

Does it pay the Michigan farmer to raise it at present prices? We were told years ago by those who ought to know that to raise wheat as we were then doing would ruin our farms; that this crop was taking the life blood out of the land, and that the crop was gradually growing less and less, and that soon its yield would be so low that it would not pay to raise it, and that then, when it was too late, we would see that we had ruined our land, and then would come the tug of war to find ways and means to restore the lost fertility.

Between 30 and 40 years ago the Michigan Farmer was devoting its energies largely to the task of persuading the farmers of Michigan to raise something else besides wheat, as that was so uncertain, and the yield was such at that time that it did not pay to raise it. The yield for the State at that time (and mark you that was when the land was new) was about 10 bushels per acre as an average for five years. Now and then a farmer would raise considerable more than the average, but even they thought wheat was a very poor paying crop to raise. It may be both interesting and instructive to compare some of the figures of that early time with those of to-day and see if we have good cause of complaint on account of the wheat crop at the present time. I will give the figures of 36 years ago as to the cost of raising wheat, based upon the average for five years, by a man who raised fifteen bushels per acre for the five years, while the State only yielded ten bushels per acre for the same time.

Summer-fallowing ten acres, plowing twice.....	\$20.00
One day sowing the same.....	.75
Three days harrowing in seed.....	4.50
12 1/2 bushels seed wheat at 63 cents.....	7.87 1/2
Harvesting at \$1 per acre.....	10.00
Hauling and threshing 150 bushels at 8 cents.....	12.00
Marketing at 4 cents a bushel.....	6.00

Making a total cost of.....	61.12 1/2
Credit by 150 bushels of wheat at 63 cents a bushel, that being the average price, and 15 bushels to the acre the average yield, for the five years.....	94.50
Deduct the cost of raising.....	61.12 1/2

Leaves a balance of..... 33.37 1/2 to pay two years' interest on the cost of the land and wear and tear of tools, etc.

Now it will be observed that this comparatively fortunate farmer, who raised half as much again as the average for the State for the five years, has left \$33.37 1/2 per acre to pay his two years' interest on his land, taxes, insurance, use of buildings, etc. When these are deducted his expenses run ahead of his receipts, and where would the average farmer of that time find himself? Echo answers, where?

How is it to-day? Of course we nearly all say, as they did then, that wheat-raising don't pay, and that we are ruining our land by wheating it to death.

Well, our Michigan method is a funny way to kill off land, to have the yield of wheat increase as the land grows older, until at the present time, after half a century, the average is twice what it was then, and the wheat crop is to-day about the surest crop that the farmer can raise. While the cost of raising an acre of wheat is greater than then, and the average cost a trifle over 59 cents per bushel, yet for southern Michigan the net income to the farmer, after he gets good pay for all his work, is \$4.46

per acre, and for the northern Michigan farmer, \$5.93. This is no big thing to get from a wheat crop, and is not as well as we may do, yet it is much better, as I have shown, than they did at that early day when the soil was new and rich.

The present must be counted as a successful generation of wheat farmers, who know well what they are doing; and the recent Institute at Climax, in this county, brought out men who on old wheat farms are now raising such enormous wheat crops that the total cost the past year has been less than 40 cents per bushel, leaving the enormous profit of 45 to 50 cents per bushel at present prices.

A word to the wise, however, may not be out of place. We must get from 20 bushels up to 50 per acre, and the larger the yield the cheaper per bushel can we raise it.

The above showing seems to indicate that very many farmers are making a good thing out of wheat at the present time, and possibly more than from any other farm crop, excepting Bohemian oats.

A question right here might be in order: If the average yield of wheat per acre is increasing at such a great rate as is indicated above, how long will it be before wheat-raising runs out in Michigan. Those who think that the increased yield points to prospective sterility, would no doubt figure out from a decreasing yield per acre good proof of increasing fertility.

WM. STRONG.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Feb. 9, 1886.

Sowing Clover Seed.

[From the Agricultural College.]

As to the best time and method of sowing clover seed, we have tried sowing on frozen ground, later on snow or ground not frozen, and still later with and without harrowing. We have had a good catch with each method, and we have occasionally failed with each, so that we cannot say that any one of these or any other will always prove successful. Seasons and soils and conditions of soil vary so greatly that the best way this year may not be the best next season. My own experience, however, leads me to the conclusion that it is safer to wait until the ground is settled, then sow and harrow thoroughly with a light harrow, and then follow with roller. We use the Cakoon or wheelbarrow seeder, and last season we secured a "Strowbridge broadcast seeder," which can be quickly attached to a wagon and has given perfect satisfaction, both in sowing clover and grain. It is manufactured by the Racine Seeder Co., Racine, Wis.

With light lands, where it is difficult to get a good seeding of clover, I have found it a good plan to sow the clover with the wheat (we always sow timothy in the fall) getting it in early—the last days of August or first of September. Almost invariably I have secured a good catch of clover, but sometimes the growth of clover is so strong as to lessen the yield of wheat.

I have sown clover in August on light land thoroughly prepared, without any grain, and believe that on lands of this character it will frequently be found the best way to seed them. The problem is, how to seed our light opening lands. I have had little trouble with heavy soils. As to the amount of seed a wide difference of opinion prevails. Many farmers say a bushel of clover to ten acres; I think it safer to sow from six to eight quarts per acre.

We have not experimented with mixed grasses for pasture, but intend to do so this season. We have grown Lucerne, Alsike orchard grass, oat grass and several other grasses for some years in one-eighth acre plats of each sort. While each has a value of its own and would be desirable in a pasture of mixed grasses, no one of them compares with our red clover as to quality, yield and adaptability to all soils. Clover is our main reliance for fodder and fertility.

Prof. Brown, of Ontario, recommends for permanent pasture soils with a decided clayey tendency, seeded with the following mixture per acre: Grasses—meadow fescue, 6 lbs.; meadow fox fair, 3 lbs.; timothy, 3 lbs.; English rye, 2 lbs.; Canadian blue, 4 lbs.; orchard, 3 lbs.; red top, 2 lbs.; yellow oat, 2 lbs.; total, 25 lbs. Clovers—Lucerne, 4 lbs.; white, 2 lbs.; alsike, 2 lbs.; red, 1 lb.; yellow, 1 lb.; total, 10 lbs.; total, including grasses, 35 lbs. per acre. He adds never less than 25 lbs. with the best conditions, nor more than 35 lbs. with poorest conditions. Keep all animals off the first year. Practice rolling every year and top dress with barnyard manure every third year, after haying or in early fall.

SAM'L JOHNSON.

HILLSDALE, Feb. 15, 1886.

Bro. C. S. Killmer, of Arenac, in a late number of the VISITOR seems to have been in a gloomy frame of mind when he wrote. He should remember that farmers, as a rule, think it as much out of their line of business to write an article for publication as the legal fraternity think it out of theirs to get an honest living in the harvest field. I do not sympathize with the writer in the gloomy view he takes of the Grange; and if I did I would not publish it, for it's catching. Now there is no class with better native ability or that is quicker to discern, or that will adapt themselves to circumstances more read-

ily than the farmer. Nor is there any class that has better practical knowledge or outside of the profession that read more than they. Nor will they compare unfavorably with the professions outside of their particular line of business. They may not always have that refined polish, but that is only skin deep anyway; for it as often gives currency to villainy as beauty to sainthood. And their enterprise and energy and push are exhibited in every department of husbandry. And with the increased facilities for education, they are rapidly rising to a higher state of influence and refinement. And so far from being cringing cowards, with over one hundred years under the institutions of liberty, and until the love of independence has become a part of their very being, so marked that it distinguishes them from all other people; they are ready to defend their rights whenever known, no matter who is the offender. Great evils have grown up among us rapidly. And, as a class, we deprecate them. But just how to get out of our present condition we are not so well agreed. One sees his way out through the Knights of Labor, another through the Grange, another through the Anti-monopoly party, and another is still trusting for better legislation to one or the other of the old parties, that have fostered these evils or allowed them to develop in our midst unheeded. It is to be regretted that through some organization there could not be more unity; sooner or later the end will be reached though it may be through confusion and blood.

The worthy Brother thinks we don't have opposition enough to keep us alive. "That human nature loves to fight"; that our principles are universally conceded to be right and therefore there is no room for contention, hence we die. Isn't it the same with the principles of the churches and aren't they powers in the land. If our Worthy Brother's statements were true there would be no need of organization. All that would be necessary would be to arise at our leisure and enter into the promised land. But before we got there he would find a Red Sea and Jordan to cross. While in theory they are conceded to be right practically they are contested at every point. But for encouragement I would say that Adams Grange, No. 286, five miles east of Hillsdale City, is alive and well and doing well and has enough opposition to keep any Grange in good fighting condition, and I wish our worthy Brother was with us to enjoy it. If I knew how to build a good out-door cellar I would certainly tell our worthy brother. But as I do not we will have to wait for our brother's experience. And I hope we will agree perfectly next time.

Brother Mayo has been with us and given us a grand, good lecture. We are six feet taller in the community than we were before he came. He left an appointment for Sister Mayo sometime next summer. We will wait patiently until the time comes, then impatiently until she does come. Wm. Kirby.

How to Raise Potatoes.

Make the ground mellow; mark, with large cultivator teeth, three feet apart both ways. Cut seed into pieces containing one or two eyes and drop two pieces in a hill. Cover with a hoe and make the top of the hill as low as the surrounding ground. Poison the bugs of course, but don't use four times the poison you need. Don't use a shovel plow; it makes furrows too deep and hills too much. Do all your cultivating before the potatoes set. Just before digging pass the cultivator through with teeth set to turn the ground from the row. Dig with a manure fork with six tines, or less if the tubers are large. Sort in the field. G. R.

The farmers around Kankakee, Ill., have hit on a good scheme for their mutual information and benefit. They have opened a farmers' club-room, where the farmers may congregate and there may be found the leading stock agricultural, local and daily periodicals and papers of the country. Market bulletins and reports are received at this club-room daily, which is comfortably furnished and should prove a boon to the community. The membership fee is \$1. Other towns would do well to follow suit.

A WELL-READ farmer, possessing general knowledge of questions affecting the industries that contribute to the support of Government, is more likely to become a safe Legislator, when given the trial, than a lawyer, whose interest is by necessity, limited. But he is far less likely to be chosen, because he does not seek place, while the other is always watchful, for the main chance. Legislatures should be made up of good men representing all honest industries, interests and professions, for so would all receive due consideration.

IN 1880 the cotton mills in the South numbered only 161; now there are 304, an increase of 143. In the same half decade the number of Southern spindles has increased by 619,328. In 1880 the South had only 6.7 per cent. of the looms of the country, and it is something to be able to show an increase of that percentage realized during the darkest period ever known in the history of cotton-spinning in America. The figures now give us 10.7 per cent. of all the spindles.—N. O. Times.

Postal Jottings.

IOWA.

AS THE VISITOR has been adopted as an organ through which the Granges of Iowa are to communicate with each other we are willing to contribute our mite. For the past year Greenwood Grange, No. 1863, has been dormant—asleep as it were—not having any meetings since Feb. 28, 1885, until to-day. This meeting was called by our Worthy State Master, J. E. Blackford, for the purpose of reorganizing Greenwood Grange. After considerable discussion we reorganized with twenty-eight members; proceeded to elect and install the officers, Brother and Sister Blackford officiating. Listened to several warm speeches by the brothers present, also by the W. S. M. Everything seems thoroughly roused and the future looks brighter. The day passed all too soon. We were reminded by the setting sun that we must close. We meet again two weeks from to-day, at which time we hope to take in several more members.

ANNA WARNER.

MICHIGAN.

BRO. COBB—I would like to ask what the duty on wheat from the United States into Canada is? if any! In conversation with one of our State Senators he claimed there was none. I claimed there was. He gave no authority. I gave as mine the *Rural New Yorker* (editorial). Which is right? yours fraternally, J. M. W.

Bedford, Feb. 28, 1886. [The duty on wheat is 20 cents per bushel.—Ed.]

IN Ladies' Department of Feb. 1 was the query: "What is the first requisite of a model home?" was discussed in No. 337, and the conclusion was, "Love, love to God and to all that compose the home. We await the summing up of the matter by Ruth Restley through the columns of the GRANGE VISITOR. J. B.

In a public lecture, a short time since, by one of the Grange Lecturers, the remark was made that "We have, we think, elected our last millionaire Governor in Michigan. Now the question arises, How can any but a millionaire have the office? First, the party must have money to run the campaign and that must come mostly from the "barrels" of the candidates. Second, the constitution of Michigan is so niggardly in its provisions that only wealthy men can (in justice to themselves) hold the office. Why should not this defect in the Constitution of the State be a "text" for consideration by the public press of the State. It is not economy. The Governor should be well paid, live at the Capital and be, as it were, a father to our State Institutions, both numerous and varied in their character. Let us examine: The Governor is expected to understand so as to report the needs and requirements of those institutions in a message to each Legislature when it convenes each alternate year. How much time can he afford (even with his pockets full of railroad passes) to spend during the term. Instead of dropping down at any time and going through those institutions until he understands them fully and their needs, his report is their report and considered by the Legislature which appoints the several committees for the purpose of visiting those State institutions. For which purpose an adjournment is had (usually about the second week in February) of ten days, and (as it costs about 800 dollars per day to run the State Legislature) costs the people at least 8,000 dollars for what the Governor could much better do if liberally paid and required so to do. The several committees visit after due notice and timely preparation, and find every thing in excellent order, and usually return ready to report just such sums as the management ask for, besides being very favorably impressed with the management. So after a visit to the poor farm, in Allegan County, by the Board of Supervisors of that County, one of the members proposed to the landlord of the hotel where he boarded that he should quit him and board over at the poor farm. Said he, they keep the best house; so by not paying a reasonable salary to the Governor, and requiring an equivalent in attention to State matters and interests, we double the expense without proper returns. The State press should agitate this matter that the people may better understand the reasons for and become willing to do justice by the Executive and other State officers, and vote to amend the Constitution of the State so it shall not be a disgrace and a by-word. Should be pleased to see other communications on this subject. TAXPAYER.

Ganges, Mich.

H. BISHOP, in the VISITOR of March 1, shows how beer could be made in Kalamazoo by imposing a duty or tax of one dollar a keg on Milwaukee beer, and save the money at home. His proposition seems quite plausible and in the interest of the Kalamazoo laborer. But suppose again, after the tax has entirely shut out the foreign beer and the home manufacturers have a monopoly of the business, they are so avaricious as not to be satisfied with the legitimate profits made by employing home labor so they send to Milwaukee and import a lot of Bohemians who will make as much beer as the Kalamazoo laborer and for

one-half the pay. How is that for the home laborer who has used the little means saved in the purchase of the small home and now is supplanted by the imported pauper laborer. What workingmen complain of is they are necessitated to buy very nearly every article they need in a *protected* market, and sell their labor in an *unprotected* market. Protect us and we will pay protective prices. But if we are to sell in an unprotected market give us goods unprotected. LABORER.

I SEE by the papers that the name of Hon. Cyrus G. Luce is being mentioned as a candidate for the next Governor.

But Bro. Luce knows by sad experience, that unless he is willing to put \$20,000 into the corruption fund it will be useless to think of being a candidate for that office. There is no man in Michigan that I would like to see in the Governor's chair, any better than Worthy Master Luce, and I believe that he would fill that position with credit to himself and honor to the State. But I wish some man, wiser than I am, would solve this problem, "If the people require a candidate to pay \$20,000 for a \$1,000 office, how much do they expect him to steal, to make himself good, and still retain the name of good financier?" Yet the masses, even farmers and Patrons, seem to prefer candidates who contribute liberally to support the ticket, and steal it all back, to be ready for the next campaign. I do not believe that that class of politicians will find a very good subject in the Hon. Cyrus G. Luce. CORTLAND HILL.

Clinton County.

RUTH RESTLEY asks, "What is the first requisite of a model home?" My first thought when I read it was, a Christian character; but the answer given by Uncle Bradford covers the entire ground. But you may ask, does not Christian character fill the bill? No, because there are many good Christians who are not habitually cheerful. Oh, yes, I know what you are thinking: Christianity should make its possessors cheerful. Well, so it does in a measure, but all natures cannot be entirely made over. And so Uncle B. has struck the key-note as also has Mrs. L. A. E. when she says, "Let us teach our girls so they will make the most of home, bringing into it the most sunshine, the most of comfort and happiness." There, R. R., you have it in a nutshell. May Maple, your "twigs" are so restful they are like the "shadow of the rock on a weary land." KEELER.

BERLIN Center Grange enjoyed with their friends an open Grange meeting Feb. 25, at their hall, and had the pleasure of listening to a very interesting lecture by Bro. Luce, Master of the State Grange, which I should judge was well received, as I heard it remarked that they could have listened for another two hours and not have tired. After the lecture several subscriptions to the VISITOR were taken, one application for membership, and all went home feeling they had spent the afternoon profitably. C. A. D. C.

THE Silver Question, as handled by J. G. Ramsdell, should be read by every laboring man in the United States, and then they should compare it with their experiences in the past and see which is the best for them—the high priced money or the low priced money. I have found the high priced goods are for the rich non-laborer and the low priced goods are for the poor laborer.

I think Senator Palmer is right in his estimate of indolence. It is the uneasy, restive, energetic men that have made and are making millionaires of such men as Palmer. W. C. JOHNSON.

PERE Cheney, Mich.

CRYSTAL Grange is picking up. Our attendance is not large, yet we are having as interesting meetings now as this Grange ever had. For a variety in our exercises we have four members appointed each meeting to take part in the exercises of next meeting, making their own selections. They in turn appoint four more for next, and so on. Thus far no one has "kicked up in the traces" and all have done well. We like this plan ourselves and recommend it to others who are looking for a change in Grange program.

Our Master, Bro. Hickland, is trying his "level best" to make the Grange a success, financially as well as otherwise. We have had no "jangles" for the last six months, and to those who are waiting for some more to turn up, will say that Crystal Grange has got pretty near through quarreling, and that they had better return to the fold and pay up their dues while their credit is good, for we have a curious Secretary who always suspends members who are a good way behind in this matter. E. W. JOHNSON.

NOT having seen a jotting from Mapleton Grange, No. 655, since last August, and thinking that what is everybody's business is nobody's, I now take the liberty of making this my own, and report that we are in a thriving condition at present, having initiated several new members recently. About eight months ago we purchased a fine organ for our hall, to be paid for in installments. Our next and last payment amounts to about \$18, of which we received \$15 to-day as the net proceeds of a social entertainment given by the sisters of the Grange. The pastimes of the day were an art gallery containing

more than fifty views, a fish pond, a bountiful repast served by willing hands to a hall full of hungry people, after which came a literary program of decided merit. After the program came the drawing of a handsome bed quilt, which had been pieced, quilted and donated by the ladies for this purpose. Tickets were sold at twenty-five cents each; duplicates of those sold were placed in a box, well shaken and then drawn out one at a time, the last one taken from the box being the lucky one to draw the quilt. It occasioned a great deal of merriment, and, as the lucky number was held by a young girl in no way connected with the Order, all seemed well satisfied and went home in good spirits, having enjoyed a pleasant afternoon. LECTURER.

"NANCY" in VISITOR asked regarding kitchen drains; said perhaps E. W. S. might reply. Mr. Killmer answered the questions and filled the bill. The most E. W. S. knows about kitchen drains are those occasioned by the grocers' and other bills. E. W. S.

IN ACCORDANCE with the custom in this part of Mich. a goodly number, consisting of the members of Bruce and Armada Grange, No. 657, and many friends from outside the Order, met at the home of W. M. John McKay on the evening of the 20th of Feb., that being the twentieth anniversary of their marriage. After some time spent in jollification a table was spread where all (about 75) were abundantly refreshed; after which a present, consisting of a china bedroom set, was presented to Bro. and Sister McKay. All were highly pleased with the courtesy extended to them, and it was unanimously agreed that our visit had resulted to us at least in both pleasure and profit. May such meetings be often repeated. SEC'Y.

WE ARE still faithful to the Grange, although so far distant. We were formerly members of Dansville Grange, No. 54, Mich. Moved to Dakota four years ago this spring. We like our new home first-rate. Not a furrow was turned when we came but now we have about 125 acres under cultivation. Crops turned out very well this last year. Our greatest drawback is lack of water, some often boring from 50 to 100 feet down and find none or else it is too bitter to use, stock refusing it. For fuel we use twisted hay or flax straw in pipes which answers nearly all the purposes of wood. We have no Grange, which is a great loss for us; still in its place we have a Farmers' Alliance, which is doing good work. We inclose fifty cents for a year's subscription to the VISITOR, for we find we can not get along without it. F. M. OTIS.

Kingsbury Co., Dakota.

I TAKE the opportunity, through the Postal Jottings, of informing those who desire to know if the delegates of the State Grange are doing their duty, that Brother and Sister Goss visited Bee Hive Grange, installed their officers and gave us a very good idea of what was done at the State Grange. We are satisfied they are "True Blue" or they would not go five or six miles in a blizzard to meet with any Grange, even their own. When gathered around the table they must have been fully convinced that Bee Hive was not quite as dead as had been reported, and we hope to enjoy many more such meetings.

MRS. G. H. BARKER, secretary. Van Buren County.

I CANNOT afford to do without the VISITOR. I welcome with pleasure the many good things written by Brother and Sister Patrons. Judge Ramsdell's article on silver meets my views entirely. I enjoy reading the reports of the different Granges and their meetings, and often wish that I might be among them. We enjoyed fine weather during the month of February and many of our farmers sowed wheat and planted such garden truck as the frost would not damage. Although to-day we are having a little snow storm yet the weather is quite warm. Soon we will be following the plow again. L. C. ROOT.

Red Willow Co., Neb. March 4, 1886.

KEYSTONE Grange, No. 226, has not been heard from through the columns of the VISITOR for some time, and while it may perhaps not fully represent its name, "Keystone," yet we are by no means dead. But from somewhat of indifference on the part of many of our members our Grange has suffered loss, both in numbers and interest. But at our last election, held on the 26th of Dec. last, the reins of government were given to the younger members, who are apparently determined to make the meetings more interesting in the future. Bro. V. C. Bottsford, a young man of ability and influence, now fills the Master's chair, while the subordinate positions are filled with competent officers (mostly young persons). Bro. Redfern, Master of the Pomona Grange and delegate from the State Grange, installed our officers on the 23d of Jan. in a most impressive manner, after which a bountiful supper and a general sociable chat were enjoyed. In the social enjoyment the sound of the Master's gavel was heard. Order was restored and Bro. Redfern was called for. He responded in a very able and instructive manner, giving full details of the reports, and suggestions for good of the Order from the State Grange, besides much good advice. Thus the intellectual, as well as

the physical, part of the members was fed and invigorated; and we believe all went to their homes better Patrons and with a determination to make Keystone Grange more interesting in the future—which fact has proven itself by our meetings being better attended and applications for membership are already coming in. J. J. KEISER.

Clinton Co.

WEATHER has been extremely cold the last few days, bad for wheat, and will injure fruit, we fear. Snow is mostly gone, begins to look like spring, and aren't we glad? How I like to clear up and fix up around the house in the spring with a chance to breathe the fresh air that we so much need after being housed so close all winter as many of us have to be, especially the women. We love to think the time is most here for fixing the flower beds and for garden work; it always gives me great pleasure when I can do such labor, for it brings us true reward. We were highly pleased to see so many new-comers among the Jottings. We welcome our Iowa Brothers, and we send you our most fraternal greeting but we do earnestly hope that we shall see something from the pens of our Iowa Sisters as well. We can make the Jotting page a perfect gem of excellence if we try. We were much pleased with the last G. V. throughout. How we wish farmers would not stand in their own light; but they certainly do when they refuse to take the VISITOR. Is Myra ill that we do not hear from her? We hope not. We discuss the butterine question to-night at our Grange. AUNT KATE.

[Many besides Aunt Kate will regret that our faithful Myra is in poor health at present and can only send fraternal greeting and wishes for success to her VISITOR friends.—Ed.]

WHEREAS, Hon. C. C. Comstock, Member of Congress from the Fifth Michigan District, has introduced a bill in Congress providing for the collection of a graduated income tax from all persons having an income of \$2,000 and upwards per annum; and

WHEREAS, We believe this movement to be in the interest of the laboring and producing classes of our country who are now compelled to pay an undue proportion of our taxes; therefore be it

Resolved, By Ravenna Grange, No. 373, that we do heartily approve and commend the action of Congressman Comstock in this particular, and urge its adoption by Congress; and the Secretary is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Hon. C. C. Comstock and also one to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

The above was adopted by a rising vote unanimously. P. D. SMITH.

THINKING that it might be of interest to Patrons to know what Ravenna Grange is doing by way of co-operation, I thought I would send you a statement of our trade, principally with the Grange Store at Allegan, kept by Bro. A. Stegeman. We each make out a bill of what we want and sign it, and our Secretary makes one large bill of the several small ones, sends it in, and the goods are returned in good order, each one's parcel put up separately, and labeled properly. In 1883 we bought goods to the amount of \$381.02; in 1884, \$332.50; in 1885, \$413.76. The goods received have always given perfect satisfaction, as the goods have been first-class in every particular, and cheap enough so that many of us pay our dues by the profits on a single purchase. M. B. AVERILL.

ROSS Grange, No. 24, was organized May 21, 1873, and its members have met regularly ever since, and we consider ourselves one of the old Pioneers of the Order. To be sure our membership is not as large as we would like it, but what we have are earnest Patrons who can see the benefits of the Order. We had a feast Feb. 26 and conferred the fourth degree on four new members and had a very enjoyable time. We own a comfortable though unpretentious hall, comfortably furnished, and are out of debt. We have bought several bills of groceries of Thornton Barnes, of Philadelphia, which have given perfect satisfaction. On the silver question we stand unanimously in favor of the unlimited coinage of the present standard silver dollar. H. F. JOHNSON.

Augusta, Feb. 27, 1886.

It is now generally conceded that there is a new species of fraud perpetrated on the community by the Bohemian oat agents. These agents are the more dangerous because, while transacting their nefarious business, they seem to violate no law. The American people have long ago found out that the most palpable frauds are perpetrated on men by this same species of "legal-right men." And they seem to do it with impunity; for, although you may know that a man is a rascal, you cannot always prove it.

It is much to be deplored that some of our well known and reputable farmers are acting as agents for this swindle, for, as a keen observer has said, "There is nothing more dangerous than an honest man engaged in a rascally calling. He is the more dangerous because he leads people into errors and crimes of which they do not see the absurd and odious character. Among those who have been inveigled into this scheme are two of our Galesburg ladies, who have each invested \$200 in this "agricultural lottery." Q. B.

"I AM convinced that co-operation is the most useful movement of the age, so far as the future of the working classes is concerned."—Thos. Burt, M.P.

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Advise this office at once of a change in your address, or if numbers fail to reach you.

It may surprise some of our readers to find so much space in this number given to the able address of Worthy Master Woodman of the National Grange. This address appeared in the VISITOR of Nov. 15, and was probably then read by nearly all the Patrons of Michigan. The high estimate put upon this document by the representatives of the Order when in session at Grand Rapids was expressed by an order to reprint the address in the VISITOR about this time, and in obedience to that order we give it in this number. This address should not only be read at home but at Grange meetings, and the paper lent to neighbors who will read the address.

We have had an extra thousand copies printed and sent to canvassers to be used on town meeting day. As we said in the last number we cannot afford to renew the offer of one year ago. It is too little for so much. But we hope not only our friends, designated as canvassers, but others will put in a little work for the VISITOR on that day.

While we think every Patron, who does not now take the VISITOR, ought to be willing to pay 50 cents a year for so much reading of the kind found in the VISITOR and not only Patrons but other farmers as well, yet, to encourage workers to greater diligence, we will accept \$2.00 for every five names, for one year, secured town meeting day and forwarded to us the same week. Last year we got over 2,000 names from that day's work. We hope to do as well this. We believe this is a good number to canvass with. For the "Good of the Order" try it and try hard.

The Labor Question.

THE conflict between capital and labor is each month becoming more marked. We are rapidly drifting to that point where by a sort of general acquiescence something must be done. Theories must be worked down by a practical test and if found impracticable must be discarded and other schemes experimented with until as we believe the danger which now surrounds our business relations shall be overcome.

The inventions of the last half century have worked a complete revolution in every department of human industry and with these changed conditions dangers unknown to the civilization of former times confront us. With the progress of our civilization, schemes for amassing wealth rapidly have been devised and executed by the few, while at the same time the many have participated in the advanced condition of society to a degree that they are not satisfied with the poor living obtained by the laboring class of former times. They ask for and feel that they are entitled to share in some of the advantages that modern inventions have brought to mankind, while these very inventions seem to have diminished their opportunities for getting a living.

Capitalists, in their eagerness for more wealth and stimulated by the competition which is found in every line of manufacturing business, are slow to realize the condition into which the laboring class have been brought by the use of machinery which has displaced men by performing their work, and still slower to take in the situation and attempt to provide for and maintain such relations to the laboring class as shall secure safety to their own business. We do not ignore the fact that sections of the labor class are often unreasonable and exacting, nor the other fact that as the business world now stands laborers should better understand that they are often largely indebted to capitalists for an opportunity to earn even a poor living for

themselves and their families. There is a mutual dependence and relationship that must be better understood, and not only better understood but must be woven into the warp and woof of business itself before the rude methods now in vogue will be discarded. We are glad to see some newspapers edited with ability taking a broad, sensible view of the situation. Of those we read the *Evening Journal* of Detroit is of the number. Its strong endorsement of the Grange scheme of the adjustment of differences by arbitration commends its course to our hearty approval. Nor is this all; its level-headed arguments based on the fact that laboring people have some rights aside from the right to accept for a stipulated amount of service are in the line of a comprehensive recognition of that community of interest that lies at the foundation of a harmonious settlement of the labor problem.

Girard Grange.

To see to the make-up of the VISITOR of March 1 we were at Coldwater on Friday, the 26th day of February. We found Bro. Aldrich, of the *Republican*, under contract to deliver a lecture in Girard Grange Hall that evening, and he invited us to ride out some six or seven miles with him. Of course we accepted, as, when practicable, we always do every invitation, to meet with the Patrons of Michigan. The roads were rough and the wind sharp, but we reached the hall on time, and found it well filled with Girard Patrons, their neighbors and friends. The lecture covered about three-quarters of an hour in the delivery and showed much thought. By striking out away from the more common line of lecture work, it was suggestive and offered topics for the thoughtful consideration of his hearers, and they paid undivided attention from first to last. Grange work is never wholly satisfactory without music, and in this instance there was no hesitation or delay, and, from our stand point, was entirely satisfactory. This Grange has a good, large, commodious Hall, and, best of all, is out of debt, and determined to make the best of the opportunities for improvement, and for the social enjoyment the Grange was designed to afford, and does afford, to all who seek for such benefits with a determined purpose.

A Grange Hall would not be complete without a dining room and a kitchen, and these essentials we found useful and convenient that evening.

After a brief acquaintance with members, whose names were more familiar than their faces, we were invited to the dining room where we had opportunity to qualify for the long, cold ride back to Coldwater. We never miss chances of this kind, and if liberal eating is commendable, and we think it is, with such prospects ahead we are entitled to some credit for work in that line, well done.

The proportion of young people was good, and when we find that to be the case and a disposition on the part of the older ones to give them a chance and encourage them in ways and means to have a good time, we are confident that Grange is on the high road to prosperity. From all we saw and heard we were well pleased with Girard Grange and hope to be with these Patrons some other day.

We have such an acquaintance with *Green's Fruit Grower*, edited by Charles A. Green, a practical Pomologist, as justifies a commendatory endorsement of his paper. His editorials are instructive, his style entertaining and calculated to inspire confidence in him as a man. The *Fruit Grower* is published at Rochester, New York.

Farmer Swindlers.

We often see items in newspapers showing how some farmer is swindled by some smooth talking fellow, and as we read we think of some professional rascals as being the party of the first part, and some innocent, gullible farmer, whose credulity has cost him some money, as the party of the second part.

There are some people who seem to assume that if *honest* don't mean farmer, that farmer and honesty are almost synonymous.

Our editorial columns have never talked any of that sort of nonsense. Statistics assign about one-half the population of this country to the farmer class. Many of the most successful business men of the country have come from farmer homes—have come from this half, known as the agricultural class. A small percentage of the petty scamps, tramps and sneak thieves have also come from rural homes.

Getting a little higher up and we find farmers lending a willing ear to schemes that promise great gain without any corresponding equivalent, and some of these not only lend a willing ear but become active workers—stool pigeons to capture the unwary.

Since our issue of Feb. 15, we received a letter of eight pages from one of these stool pigeons dated Decatur, Feb. 7, and signed F. E. Shoudy. The letter is headed, "For the VISITOR" and the writer starts out in such an innocent

way that we must give him some show, though we feel that less space than he seems to want, will show him a good cross between a fool and a knave. In his second paragraph he says: "I have no other object in view only to have the people understand the business of selling and buying grain through or by the officers of an incorporated seed company, in its true light." After this statement it would have been in order to have told "the people" how this "incorporated company" do their business, and how "the people" are to be benefited, by having an agent of this "incorporated company" explain to Mr. Shoudy a little scheme by which there was a chance to make some money, if he would just ride around with him a few days and represent to his neighbors that oats, worth in the market less than fifty cents per bushel, could be sold for \$1.00 and make them believe it. That is the kind of "true light" that was omitted in his letter and which he should have omitted if he wanted to make good his proposition. He neglected to tell the people what advantage they were to derive from the fact that these swindlers are an incorporated company. He might have said that the "incorporated" feature was to aid in bamboozling his neighbors and he would have told a simple truth. That he used this deceptive point in the game for all its worth, is clear enough when he proudly states, "I will say that in two days' time five grangers made, in my neighborhood, purchases of Bohemian oats of the Crawford, Henry and Williams County Seed Company, through their agent, S. A. Boardman, and still the work is in progress." He goes on to give the date of incorporation and principal office of this "seed company" as he says, "for the benefit of whomsoever it may concern." This innocent farmer failed to tell us how the farmers of Michigan are to be benefited by an Ohio company sending agents into Michigan to sell a thing for \$1.00 worth 30 or 40 cents. This high sounding incorporation business cost something; its agents don't work for nothing. Mr. Shoudy must be paid in some way for two days' work helping to fool those "5 grangers in my neighborhood"; and what is to be the outcome of all this investment of time and money? No more nor less than this. When the crop of gudgeons have all been harvested in one district the business will move on, and here and there a stool-pigeon farmer will have the proud satisfaction of knowing that he has some money in his pocket, and that a few of his neighbors' notes are in the hands of "innocent parties" for which they have, as a consideration, a small pile of oats in the barn and a large load of experience in their head. Of course it is all right for a man to pay for his education, but this Bohemian oat business will transfer thousands of dollars from the pockets of one lot of farmers to the pockets of another lot of farmers and frauds; the process will be attended with lots of friction and no sort of good can come of it.

The whole thing is a game that must play out whenever farmers refuse to play, and those who play last will find gambling in oats, with a fictitious value, a losing business.

In the letter Mr. S. has quoted largely from the editorial that inspired him to write, referring about a dozen times to its author as Mr. Anonymous." He furnishes additional evidence of his obtuseness by quoting from the *Detroit Tribune* this item: "The Bohemian oat men have gulled the farmers. The First National Bank of Eaton Rapids holds their notes given as purchase money for grain for over \$4,000." And here is his wise comment. "I fail to see anything necessarily wrong in that. If men buy grain why ought they not to pay for it?"

Our interesting correspondent insists that he is a great reader, takes four papers, gives lots of advice, and closes with the comforting assurance that "Every one has a chance to examine the Company's standing." We think farmers in the Bohemian oat business, like candidates for office, better not write letters. We find it mighty hard to please all our readers, and in proof of this statement comment to our friend Shoudy the following letter and editorial:

KENTON, O., Feb. 13, 1886.
MR. J. T. COBB—SIR: I have been a reader of your paper, the GRANGE VISITOR, for some time, and find no fault except you are not radical enough on public swindlers. For God sake come down on the Bohemian oats and Red Line wheat gamblers, *Iron clad*. Inclusion, if an editorial from Ohio. Give it an insertion, if worthy, and a comment. W. A. KELLY, Co. Deputy.
THERE is a move on foot to expel from the Grange Lodge in Ohio, all members that are implicated in the Bohemian Oat and Red Line Wheat swindle. That is just right and while they are at it they should be expelled from the churches.

SOME complaints have come to us alleging that we have not sent to canvassers lists of names of former subscribers to the VISITOR as found on our mailing books as was expected. To which we answer we have sent in every instance where the appointed agent has indicated the postoffice used by these subscribers whose names were wanted. Frequently members of a Grange receive their mail at two or three different offices, and this we cannot know without the canvasser or other person tells us from what offices lists are wanted. With that information we shall be glad to supply the lists to any one who will use them. We have sent a package of VISITORS to

every canvasser whose name has been sent to this office, and we are not only willing but anxious to aid in any and every way all who are working to add to the subscription list of the VISITOR.

IN the last VISITOR we alluded to the withdrawal of Hon. C. G. Luce as a candidate for Governor. We did not, at the time, publish the article found in the *Coldwater Republican*, but we have since seen the matter referred to in so many ways that we think it desirable that our readers should see the editorial of the *Republican* which will be found below. This is the first and only authorized notice to the general public, and should be received as "straight goods."

Partizan newspapers, as a rule, cannot be relied on to do a man justice until he is dead, and few men are in haste for vindication in that way. We venture the assertion that no man can be found in the State with a brighter business record than Mr. Luce has made, and yet he is assailed and his motives aspersed with a vigor and persistency born of a vicious usage that is a disgrace to American journalism. The injury is not wholly personal. The practice has a demoralizing influence through all the channels of society and drives good men to the rear disgusted.

For several months, yes, almost since the Republican State Convention in 1884, the name of Hon. Cyrus G. Luce has been proposed as that of a desirable person to nominate for Governor in 1886. From the different parts of the State have come papers having his name at the top, and while scores of letters from influential citizens and politicians have reached him urging him to be the Republican standard bearer for 1886. We know that Mr. Luce feels profoundly grateful for these numerous expressions of esteem and confidence, and the *Republican* would add its own conviction that no recipient was ever more worthy. As a man and a citizen he is *sans reproche*; his knowledge of the State and its needs is equaled by few and surpassed by none; his skill as an executive officer has been fully tested, and in every place has he proved equal to the emergency. The State would find in him a prudent, economical and far-seeing director of her affairs, but the *Republican* speaks advisedly when it declares that Mr. Luce cannot consent to become a candidate for Governor, and has not been since the summer of 1884. This announcement will probably set at rest the anxiety of several aspirants for that place and may lead to the announcement of other persons whose names have only thus far been quietly mentioned. While the *Republican* knows of no man in the State in the Republican party who can command so strong a personal following as Mr. Luce yet the party has a score of men whose candidacy would be entirely worthy.

FARMERS will notice the new "ad" of the Gale Manufacturing Co., of Albion. This Company have an established reputation for making good goods.

We invite the attention of farmers to the advertisement of the Moseley & Pritchard Manufacturing Co. These aids to the housewife are coming into general use, and they must be had. A creamery helps wonderfully in the competition forced upon the farmer by bogus butter-makers.

The Dairy Business.

Few people realize the relative importance of the dairy interest of this country. Few families that freely use butter and bread have found out that the dairy product costs the most money. But this is true, and being true, indicates the large amount of money invested in the dairy business. We mean of course the legitimate dairy business, which has suffered, and is suffering, and seems likely to continue to suffer from the large and successful investment and immense production of the bogus article.

How to protect the pecuniary side of the dairy business of the country has secured the attention of newspaper men, letter writers, dairy conventions and legislatures, and would have secured the attention of those who eat the imitation goods but for the reason that the imitation was so complete that the eater could not detect the counterfeit. A vigorous attempt to suppress its use by denouncing it as a vile compound of all sorts and conditions of poor grease, all went for nothing, and must so long as the consumer relishes the bogus product.

So far legislation has accomplished little in the way of protecting the dairy business of the country.

The requirement of branding with the name of the article and the name of the manufacturer was first demanded. The manufacturer complied but practically evaded the law by the use of letters so small and in a place on the package so hidden as not to be observed. We believe some legislation has been had to obviate the dodge, but so far as we have heard little of practical value has been accomplished. The last Legislature of Michigan, in forbidding the manufacture of adulterated butter, displayed more zeal than real good sense, and the Supreme Court told it so as soon as it got a chance.

No amount of complaining will bring relief to the dairy business of this country. We allow the adulteration of almost everything we eat, drink and wear, and these bogus butter makers are not the chiefest of sinners. It is of little use to complain of what they do while we make no protest against manufacturers of goods in other lines. The imposition of a specific tax upon all imitation products has been recommended and the legislative department of the general government appealed to, and

SPRING & CO., GRAND RAPIDS. ONE PRICE TO ALL!

These Low Prices Tell the Story.

Good Calicos, 3c and 4c.
Good Crash Toweling, 3c and 4c.
Good yard wide Brown Cotton, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 cts.
Good Bleach Cotton, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 cts.
Ginghams, 5, 7, 9c and upward.
Wide and fine printed Cambrics at 8, 10 and 12½ cts.
Linen Lawns 12½, 15, 20, and 25c.
Beautiful Satines, 25c.
Fine Scotch Ginghams, 20c.
Brocade Dress Goods, 5, 6, 9, 12½c.
Table Linen, 15, 19, 22, 25, 2c, 30c.
Linen Towels for 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, and 21c.
White Dress Goods from 5, 7, 9, 10c and upwards.
We are closing out a large lot of fine Plaid Cambrics for 12½c, worth from 15 to 25c. These are the cheapest we have ever seen. SPRING & COMPANY.

SILKS.

Black Gros Grain for 38c, worth 50c.
Black Gros Grain for 42c, worth 60c.
Black Gros Grain for 48c, worth 65c.
Black Gros Grain for 57c, worth 75c.
Black Gros Grain for 63c, worth 75c.
Black Gros Grain for 75c, worth \$1.
Black Gros Grain for 93c, worth \$1.
Black Gros Grain for \$1, worth \$1.50.
Black Gros Grain for \$1.25, worth \$1.75.
Black Gros Grain for \$1.50, worth \$2.00.

The Silks selling at \$1.00 \$1.25 and \$1.50 cannot be obtained elsewhere in this market at any price, as we have the exclusive agency of these goods and are entirely indemnified by the manufacturers against any reasonable damage that may occur from wear, and we make good to our customers any reasonable damage if any should occur.

We wish it were possible for us to enumerate all the different articles in our store worthy of attention.

There are thousands of dollars worth of merchandise upon our shelves and counters that is commanding great attention from customers all over the country as well as citizens of our city. The supply seems sufficient for the increased demand, and our departments were never as well supplied.

SPRING & CO.

GIANT CLOTHING COMPANY'S ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE OF OVERCOATS!

To make necessary repairs in our store, occasioned by the late fire, we are forced to commence our CLEARANCE SALE earlier than last year.

Over 1,300 Overcoats

now in stock, divided into Six DISTINCT Lots!

On our front Tables

Every Garment PLAINLY MARKED.

None Reserved!

All Must Go!!

Read prices that make sales easy and bargains assured:

Lot No.	at	Price
1	at	\$15.00
2	at	12.00
3	at	10.00
4	at	7.50
5	at	5.00
6	at	2.50

The first three lots comprise all our Overcoats selling regular For \$30, \$25, \$22, \$20, \$16.

The last three lots are made up from all Overcoats selling at \$14, \$12, \$10, \$8, \$5.

\$2.50 now buys regular \$5 Overcoat.

Boys' and Children's Overcoats go on same basis of value.

This opportunity no one should miss who is within trading distance of Grand Rapids.

GIANT CLOTHING CO.

while serious objections might be urged against this scheme, it is, perhaps, the best and, in fact, the only way to afford protection to the dairy business. If the fact is once established that the bogus article is not injurious to health, it will be hard to logically justify the imposition of a specific tax on butterine while we continue to import white clay by ship loads to adulterate sugar and every other class of goods worth over two cents a pound into which it can be incorporated.

We may have laws enough against adulteration of many articles in daily use; we certainly have a country swarming with officers of one sort and another but there is little attempt to enforce law in this direction, and when there is the "law's delays" are interposed to discourage and thwart every prosecutor.

Activity in devices to cheapen production, so as to undersell competitors, is a marked feature of the times, while, unfortunately, there is a corresponding laxity in effort to punish those who hazard health and life itself in these endeavors.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Ayrshire Breeders Association was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York Feb. 9 with 78 representatives present. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in the treasury of \$1,861.51. The dairy interests of this country are more important than the average farmer supposes. With the low price of grain we hear more talk among grain raising farmers about the dairy business. As it will interest those who are partial to some other breed, we give the awards as reported by the executive committee:

For the best 7 days test, H. R. C. Watson, West Farms, N. Y., 1st prize for Duchess of Smithfield, 4265, with a record of 468 3/4 lbs. of milk, from which was made 19 lbs. 6 oz. butter. Her milk record for 1885 was 10748 1/2 lbs. For the best 12 month record for single cow, L. C. Spaulding, Poultney, Vt., 1st prize, for Myra, 2955, with a record of 10907 lbs. 14 oz. C. M. Winslow, Brandon, Vt., 2d prize, for Ruth, 4816, with a record of 10220 lbs. For best herd of six cows, 1st prize to J. D. W. Krebs, Walden, N. Y., showing an average of 7054 lbs.

A PAMPHLET of 116 pages, by J. J. H. Gregory, on Fertilizers, has had a hasty examination. We can hardly remember when this Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass., was not largely engaged in the seed business. He is evidently a practical man and doing business in gardening on a large scale "away down East" has been compelled to know something of fertilizers to keep his business running. His little book has the endorsement of Dr. Sturtevant of the New York Experimental Station. The subject is treated under 40 different heads and farmers are very scarce that can't learn many things they ought but do not know by a perusal of this pamphlet.

WINTER is the leisure season for farmers and those who best use that leisure will always find time for all the recreation and social enjoyment they want. Don't be so intent on going to town and chores that you have no time to read, but don't think your local paper, that tells you all the gossip of the neighborhood, is all you need. The paper that adds to its small talk the accidents, murders and scandal of a continent, and a couple of pages of advertisements, is poor diet for young or old, and dear, very dear at a dollar or a dollar and a half a year, even if you don't pay for it in advance.

"CO-OPERATION is a thing most excellent, to which everyone must wish well."—W. E. Gladstone.

Notices of Meetings.

The next session of Kent County Grange will be held on March 17th at the Supervisors Room, Lyon street, Grand Rapids. By request a portion of the program for the February meeting will be continued at this session. Members placed upon the program for the last meeting who did not respond will please be prepared to do so at this time. Miss Oreta Livingston—a Miss of five years—will favor the Grange with a song. The milling question will be discussed and propositions submitted to the Grange.

WM. T. ADAMS, Lecturer.

The next session of St. Joseph County Grange, No. 4, will be held at White Pigeon, Thursday, April 1, commencing at 10:30 A. M. A full attendance of fifth degree members is desired and all fourth degree members are cordially invited to be present.

A. E. HOWARD, Secretary.

HILLSDALE County Pomona Grange, No. 10, will hold its next meeting at Jonesville, April 7. The afternoon meeting will be open to all. Brother farmers come in; it will do you good.

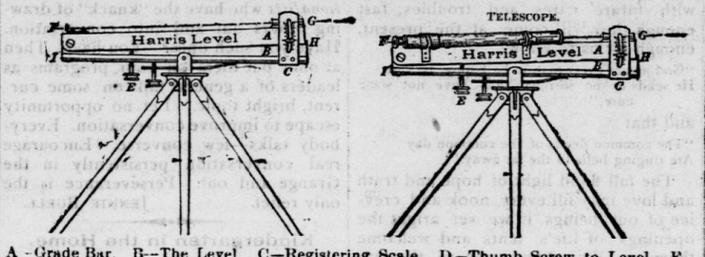
PROGRAM.
Recitations, by Mrs. R. W. Freeman and Miss Hattie Stone.
Then a question box; each Patron to have a question prepared ready for the question box immediately after dinner.
Question for discussion—"What is the best system of farm economy?"
J. E. WAGNER, Lecturer.

Obituaries.

HEYWOOD.—Died at his residence in Cheshire, Allegan County, Mich., of consumption, on Feb. 21, 1886, Past Worthy Master, Wm. S. Heywood, of Cheshire Banner Grange No. 52, aged 57 years, 11 months and 5 days. He laid down the Master's gavel to rest in the grave.
MRS. ANNA LINDSLEY, Secretary.
By order of the Grange.

JACKSON GRADE LEVEL.

PATENTED SEPT. 16, '84.
For Farmers, Ditchers, Sewer Builders, Plumbers, Contractors, Builders and Everybody wishing to Establish New Grades.



A—Grade Bar. B—The Level. C—Registering Scale. D—Thumb Screw to Level. E—Thumb Screw to Grade Bar. F—Back Sight. G—Globe Sight. H—Pointer on Scale. See Fig. 2.

The Level is made of cherry, nicely trimmed with brass, with brass bearings, center pin, back and front sights, thumb screws, etc. A malleable turned tripod-head, bolts and screws; second growth ash legs; all finished up in a neat and tasty manner. THE GRADE FOR 100 feet or for one rod is shown by the pointer on the registering scale in inches without the trouble of adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing as no other Level will do.



OUTLET FIG. 2. LEVEL AT WORK.

Do no ditching by GUESS and risk losing tile and labor, but BUY one at the following low price, put up in a neat package to ship by express:

- Level and Tripod complete, with Globe Sights, \$10
- Level and Tripod complete, with 15 in. Long Range Telescope, 20
- An 8-foot Rod and Target, complete, 2

EITHER OF ABOVE FURNISHED ON RECEIPT OF PRICE OR C. O. D.
The Latest. Hundreds Now in Use. LIVE AGENTS
The Simplest. GRADE LEVEL COMPANY WANTED
The Cheapest. Jackson, Mich.
The BEST. Refer to any Bank or Business House in City. All Over the U. S.
C. H. HARRIS, Sup't, North Cooper Street.
Cut this "ad." out and keep for reference or hand to some ditcher. 15mar86

PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.

(Corrected by Thornton Barnes, Wholesale Grocer and Grange Selling Agent, No. 231 North Water St., Philadelphia, Pa.) PHILADELPHIA, March 1, 1886.

PURE SUGARS.

Cut Loaf per lb.	7	@	7
Privatized per lb.	6	@	7
Standard Granulated per lb.	6	@	7
Standard A White per lb.	6	@	7
Best White Soft A per lb.	6	@	7
Good White Soft A per lb.	6	@	7
Extra C White per lb.	6	@	7
Standard B per lb.	6	@	7
Extra C Yellow Bright per lb.	6	@	7
C Yellow per lb.	6	@	7
Brown per lb.	6	@	7
New Orleans Extra Light per lb.	6	@	7

SYRUP AND MOLASSES—In Barrels.

Sugar drips pure sugar per gallon.	24
Amber drips pure sugar per gallon.	24
Fancy white maple drips per gallon.	32
Extra golden pure sugar per gallon.	30
Fancy New Orleans new crop per gallon.	54
Good New Orleans new crop per gallon.	50
White honey drip, vanilla flavor.	38

COFFEES—GREEN AND ROASTED.

Fancy Rio per lb.	11
Green Rio extra choice per lb.	10
Green Rio prime per lb.	9 1/2
Green Rio good per lb.	9
Green Rio common per lb.	8 1/2
Green Mocha choice per lb.	12
Green Laguayra choice per lb.	11 1/2
Green Java choice per lb.	17
Roasted Rio best per lb.	12 1/2
Roasted Rio No. 1 per lb.	12
Roasted Rio No. 2 per lb.	10
Roasted Laguayra best per lb.	13 1/2
Roasted Java best per lb.	21
Barnes' Golden Rio roasted in 1 lb pk.	14

TEAS.

Imperial per lb.	25, 35, 40, 45, 50
Young Hyson per lb.	25, 35, 40, 45, 50
Oolong per lb.	25, 35, 40, 45, 50
Japan per lb.	25, 35, 40, 45, 50
Gunpowder per lb.	30, 40, 45, 50, 55

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.

Kaisins, New Muscatella, per box.	\$2 75
" Old Muscatella.	1 75
" London layers.	3 25
" London layers, 1/2 boxes.	1 00
" Valencia per lb.	10 1/2 @ 10 1/2
" Seedless, mats, 50 lb per mat.	4 50
" Ondara, box, 25 lb.	12
" " 14 lb.	14
Prunes, French boxes, per lb.	8 1/2 @ 11 1/2
" New Turkey, per lb.	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
Currants, new, per lb.	6 1/2 @ 6 1/2

WHOLE SPICES.

Black Pepper per lb.	19
White " "	28
Ginger " "	12
Cinnamon " "	10
Cloves " "	17
Allspice " "	10
Mace " "	50
Nutmegs " "	60

PURE GROUND SPICES.

Pure Pepper, black, per lb.	21
" African Cayenne, per lb.	28
" Cinnamon per lb.	17
" Cloves per lb.	22
" Ginger per lb.	16
" Allspice per lb.	15

GROCERS' SUNDRIES.

Salt Soda, 112 lb kegs, per lb.	15 1/2
Flour sulphur, per lb.	4
Bi-carb soda, loose, 112 lb kegs.	4
" " 25 lb boxes.	5
" " 10 lb boxes.	6
" " in 1/2 lb packages.	6 1/2
" " in 1/4 lb packages.	7 1/2
Corn starch, Gilbert's, per lb.	6 1/2
" Duryea's, per lb.	8
Starch, lump, Duryea's, 40 lb boxes, per lb.	8 1/2
" Gilbert's " "	4 1/2
Corn starch, new process.	6
Starch, new process, lump.	4
" " 1 lb boxes.	5 1/2
Grain bags, 2 bushels.	20
Georgia bags, 2 bushels.	24
Chocolate, Baker's, 1 per lb.	30
Barnes' Perfect Baking Powder in 1/2 lb tins, per doz.	37
Barnes' Perfect Baking Powder in 1/4 lb tins, per doz.	20
Barnes' Perfect Baking Powder in 1 lb tins, per doz.	4 25
Rice, new crop, Fancy Head, per lb.	6 1/2
" good, per lb.	5 1/2
" prime, per lb.	5 1/2
Corn Brooms No. 3, per doz.	2 25
" No. 4, " "	2 50
" No. 5, " "	2 75
" No. 6, " "	3 00
Best parlor brooms.	3 50
Lye, Rabbit's, per case of 4 doz.	4 00
Lye, Penna. " "	3 25
Lye, Phila. " "	3 00
Potash " "	1 20 @ 3 25
Salt-peter, granulated, per lb.	10
" pure, per lb.	10

Allen Durfee,
FURNISHING
FUNERAL DIRECTOR.
No. 103 Ottawa Street,
Grand Rapids, Mich.
Residence, 193 Jefferson Ave.
15Nov16

GREENWOOD STOCK FARM
Poland China Swine a Specialty.
Breeders Stock recorded in Ohio P. C. Record. Correspondence and inspection invited.
B. G. BUELL,
LITTLE PRAIRIE RONDE,
Cass Co., Mich.

Pedigree Blanks.
Stock fanciers should send to us for a sample of our combined Pedigree Blanks and Letter Heads.
HASSLOCK & AMBROSE,
Printers and Publishers,
feb1m6 Nashville, Tenn.

THE MAN
WHO MAKES
5 Ton Wagon Scales,
Iron Levels, Steel Bearings, Brass Tare Bins and Beam Bets, for
\$60 and
JONES has passed the freight—for free Price List mention this paper and address **JONES OF BINGHAMTON, Binghamton, N. Y.**
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Grind your own Bone,
Meal, Oyster Shells,
GRAHAM Flour and Corn
in the **GRIND AND MILL**
(F. Wilson's Patent). 100 per cent more made in keeping position.
Also **POWERS MILLS** and **FARM FEED MILLS.** Circulars and Testimonials sent on application. **WILSON BROS., Eastern, Pa.**
feb 15 16



EVERY Person who wishes to improve their Handwriting or learn to Compute Interest rapidly should purchase
PARSONS' SELF INSTRUCTOR,
Penmanship and Interest Rules, and TABLES for 6, 7, and 10 per cent. and COPY SLIPS.
W. F. PARSONS.
College, Kalamazoo, Mich.



At Wholesale to the consumer. Send for Price List to D. Woodward & Son, Clinton, Mich. Write your name and postoffice plain. Grangers, 24 Points for \$4.80. 15mar86

STEKETEE'S



Condition Powders,
For Horses, Cattle and Hogs, to be given for Loss of Appetite, Roughness of Hair or Coat, Stoppage of the water and Bowels, Coughs and Colds, Heaves, Blood Purifier and Worms in Horses or Hogs.
For Worms in Horses or Hog Cholera, Use STEKETEE'S CONDITION POWDERS.
Price 25c Per Package.

Well, Here We Are Again.
We not only Cure Human Beings, but Relieve the Dumb Animals from their Ailments. Read the following testimonials and if you do not believe it, interview the undersigned and they will readily comply with your request.
We, the undersigned, owners of horses, cattle and hogs, having used Steketee's Condition Powders, cheerfully recommend these Powders for every purpose for which Mr. Steketee recommends them. Furthermore, they are an honest and cheap Powder. No owner of horses, cattle, hogs or chickens should be without them in his barn.
Hon. E. J. Harrington, Holland, Mich.; Martin Patmos, Jamestown, Mich., use them for sick chickens, with good results.
OSCAR A. SMITH, Byron, Mich.; JAS. HUTCHISON, Gaines, Mich.; L. E. SMITH, Walker, Mich.; E. HURD, Paris, Mich.; L. Luikant, Grand Rapids, Mich.
I recommend Steketee's Condition Powders and Horse Liniment, as they far surpass the achievements of any veterinary surgeon or any medicine that I have ever used for my cattle.
JELTJE BULTHUIS, Paris Township, June 3, 1885.
If your druggists or dealers in medicines do not keep these medicines, then send direct to the undersigned and I will send it on receipt of the price. It will pay you to club together and send for one-half or one dozen pounds if your druggist or dealer will not keep it on sale. Ask for Steketee's Condition Powders and Horse Liniment; the Liniment cures any lameness or bleeding. Send for prices. Address
GEO. G. STEKETEE,
Grand Rapids, Mich.
[Mention this paper.]

GROCERIES!

It will be interesting to every Farmer in the vicinity of Grand Rapids to learn that the
Wholesale Grocery House
—OF—
ARTHUR MEIGS & CO.
Have Opened a
Mammoth Retail Department,
and are selling all goods at much **LOWER PRICES** than any other dealers. **SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS** will be given large purchasers. **OUR STOCK IS LARGE,** and embraces everything in the line of Groceries and Provisions. When in town don't fail to call on us.

ARTHUR MEIGS & CO.
Retail Department,
77 and 79 South Division Street,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
dec85y1

Centennial Grange Farm Gate.

WEST CHESTER, BUTLER CO., O., Aug. 18, 1884.
This is to certify that I have had in constant use on my farm, Richardson's Centennial Grange Gate for five years, and am so well pleased with them that I would not be without the right to make and use them for ten times the cost. I have never had any trouble with them. I have never had to repair them. For my gates, 12 feet long and five boards high, I use posts six inches square. The posts stand as straight and plumb as when I first put them up five years ago—the Centennial Gate does not sag the post, it will raise and swing over snow banks, up or down a side hill, opens both ways, fastens itself open when the wind blows, will divide large from small stock, one person doing it alone, children can work it easily, and after five years' use I can confidently recommend it as the best gate I have ever seen or used.
Past Master West Chester Grange, No. 752, West Chester, Butler Co., O.
We, the subscribers, have given thorough examination of Bro. J. P. Miller's Gates and know they have been in use for five years, that they are as good as when first put up, and we fully endorse Bro. Miller's statement in every respect.
JOSEPH ALLEN,
Past Master Butler Co. Pomona Grange, Director Butler Co. Agricultural Society, and formerly Ohio State Grange Stock Agent, at Cincinnati, West Chester, Butler Co., O.
PERRY WRIGHT, Master West Chester Grange, West Chester, Butler Co., O.
JOHN L. VAN DOREN, Master Wyoming Grange, Glendale, Hamilton Co., O.
GEO. W. RAYMOND, Secretary Wyoming Grange, Glendale, Hamilton Co., O.
R. M. COX, Farmer, Mason, Warren Co., O. **ERASTUS COX,** Farmer, Mason, Warren Co., O.
For information, address **REI. RATHBUN,** care of J. T. COBB, Schoolcraft, Mich.
feb15m8

MOSELEY'S OCCIDENT CREAMERY

AND REFRIGERATOR.
FOR BOTH SUMMER AND WINTER USE!
Used with Water and Ice, or with Water only.
No lifting of cans; no skimming of milk; positively no sediment drawn with either cream or milk. Adapted for farm dairies, ranches, families, hotels, restaurants and boarding schools; also for hospitals, asylums, soldiers' homes and similar public institutions. **ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE AGENTS WANTED.** Send for Circulars to the manufacturers. (Mention this Paper).
MOSELEY & PRITCHARD MFG. CO., CLINTON, IOWA.
15mar84

MARK WELL!

The "Buyers' Guide," No. 38, for Fall and Winter, 1885, will be sent to any address upon receipt of 10 Cents to pay expense of mailing—we charge nothing for the book. It is now a regular *Dinotherium Giganticum* in size and as full of wisdom as a goat. All of the goods quoted therein (not in the goat but in the other thing) we carry in stock. Now don't delude yourself with the idea that we cannot save you money on all the goods you are obliged to buy or borrow. We are here to accomplish that end and you will find us at the business end of it every day. Morally we are of benefit to the community, because it is much cheaper to buy goods of us than to steal of any one else.
We are the original Grange Supply House, organized in 1872, to supply the consumer direct with all classes of goods at Wholesale Prices in quantities to suit the purchasers.
We handle about everything known to mankind and part of New Jersey, and while our stock of Tombstones is not complete just at present we will wager a nickel "with a hole in it," that we have got anything else you want. Just send for "The Guide," and see how near we come to the truth, or call and see us when in our city.

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.,
227 & 229 WABASH AVENUE,
Near Exposition Building,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Ladies' Department.

To Take Home to Your Wife.

"What shall I take home to my wife?"
—An overheard passing remark.
Take home to your wife a sincere and honest heart,
Kept affectionate, and true and tender;
Kindled well to a glow by a "living altar coal,"
The gift of a giver—not a sender.
Take that home to your wife.

When you find a pleasant word afloat on the air,
And are puzzled to know how to catch it,
Bid it come to you at once, for kindest keep and care,
Guard it cautiously and tenderly watch it.
Take that home to your wife.

Should you find a bright idea wandering aimlessly about,
And marvel how you best may obtain it,
Set a prompt and careful watch, both within and without,
And, when once you have made out to gain it,
Take that home to your wife.

Should there sleep within your soul a little spark of love,
With a tendency each day to growing brighter,
Let the "coal from off the altar" but touch it from above,
And with your own heart happier and lighter,
Take that home to your wife.

Should you spy a little sin in the pathway of life,
No matter how, or where, or whenever,
Toss it back upon the winds—a germ of worldly strife—
Resolving, what may come, that you'll never
Take that home to your wife.

Take only to your wife all the good that you know
In the worldly ways of life's daily giving;
Take your heart in your hand when your home-ward way you go,
And you'll have at last a life worth the living,
To take home with your wife.
—Clark W. Bryan, in Good Housekeeping.

Ceres' Report.

(Made to St. Joseph Co. Grange by Mrs. S. H. Angevine.)
Thanking you for the honor bestowed upon me by selecting me as Ceres for the past year, and in behalf of duty and custom, I herewith present my annual report. Ceres is "Goddess of Grain," and abiding by her as teacher and admonisher we should improve mentally and physically—mentally in reaping and garnering the golden sheaves of knowledge, one grain here, another there, and in the aggregate we have an immense harvest of rich and beautiful thoughts.

The men and women within our Order who read, think and write most are the supporting pillars on which we lean. They are the true and steadfast who withstand the storms of ridicule and oppression, for theirs is a solid and sure foundation. Life is short; 'tis but a brittle thread to all. We should make the most of this living life, and within our Grange, with its countless advantages, we can reap the fruitful sheaves of practical worth and usefulness. So many minds, varied in thought and action, meeting from week to week for promoting a just and noble cause, the elevation of the farmer, his wife and children must garner into the general storehouse a vast wealth in rich and heavily laden sheaves of the true knowledge. Physically we should prepare this health-giving food in a manner that will give the best nourishment to our bodies, keeping the mind clear for all active and good works. Too often our tables are loaded with rich cake and pie that in the eating causes muddled brain and a general depression of the whole system. Live plainer; give grains and fruits ample space on our tables. Take the extra time devoted to fancy baking for mental improvement. We have duties assigned us in the Order; let us ever be ready to meet them cheerfully, remembering there are "sins of omission as well as commission." Remember the principles of our noble Order. They are strong with the strength and quick in the vitality of truth.

Maple Twigs.

One housewife has found a way to perform a certain piece of work with much less labor than has heretofore been customary. Another finds a better way of performing some other task with greater ease than her sister woman.

Now if the majority of women would make use of these new ways that are not infrequently brought into notice, instead of running in the old groove because that was the way they learned to work, how many less care-worn faces would be visible.

Mrs. X, who is far from being strong, is afraid of being laughed at by her husband or neighbor if she is found sitting on a high stool washing dishes or mixing dough or doing the weekly ironing. She is sure she would be called lazy if she sat in an easy chair while paring apples or potatoes.

She seems to overlook the labor saving machinery in the barn—sulky rakes, sulky plows, harrows, reapers and mowers. John is not afraid of being thought lazy because he sits down to his work and lets a span of horses draw him about while they perform all the actual labor. His father did not teach him to use all these new-fangled implements; yet no sooner does his means permit than he purchases the latest improvement.

Why should women be so slow to improve their condition? If certain parts of the housework, that have hitherto been done while standing, can be done as well and more easily in a sitting posture, why not do the work in that position and thus save the feet and back unnecessary fatigue? especially when we know that the labors of the day will bring all the muscles of the body into

all needed exercise before the hour of rest will arrive.

In the matter of washing dishes what a long, tedious process is usually gone through with, when at least one-third of the work might be spared by having a large draining pan or tray. Wash and rinse the dishes in moderately hot water, put a cloth in the bottom of the draining pan, and set the dishes in edgewise; and as they are to be used for the very next meal set them away in the pantry. They will be nicely dried by that time for the most part; if perchance a stray drop has been caught a napkin will soon remove it. In this way very much of the time may be saved that is usually spent in drying the dishes, putting them upon the shelves and taking them down, besides the wear of numerous dish towels and the washing and ironing of them fifty-two times a year.

Not a few housewives bake a single loaf of cake at a time, and frequently repeat the operation five or six times a week. It takes no longer to mix up enough to last several days, and how many steps it saves. Mrs. B. says it is very much less work to do the washing and ironing since they all wear flannel through the winter.

It is the little savings of strength and time that prolong life and help to make this earth a paradise.

MAY MAPLE.

An Essential Element.

I supposed that the question, "What is the first requisite of a model home?" would receive at least one or two hundred answers before this time. I have seen only one yet so will put in my oar. Our Uncle in the VISITOR of Feb. 15, says the one grand thing is cheerfulness. Well, yes! given fifty or sixty other things and then cheerfulness would complete that home; but let me tell you in confidence that it requires a vast amount of grit, at times, to help one to put on that beautiful look which "cheers but not inebriates." What can be more trying than for a member of the household to go periodically down into the doleful, and thus make every one else miserable by that dejected look and tone; going about the house with the eyes cast down, nose much as a rod long, corners of the mouth drooping, ears looking fairly discouraged, clothing hanging in a dismal way from the shoulders, and every movement and tone carrying an impression of injury. And then ten chances to one our martyr will drum on every article of furniture in reach. And wouldn't that be exasperating? and wouldn't it require a plentiful allowance of grit to resist the desire to shake the dolefuls out of that person? And a still greater allowance to enable the doleful ones to resist these depressing attacks. Yes, I guess cheerfulness is a greatly needed requisite, but, Uncle Bradford, will you not let me put my dot there beside yours, and then let Sister Ruth decide which is the more needful? I say, Grit!

H. FINCH.

"Pitch Your Tents Toward the Sunrise."

There is one sweet, infallible law that rules alike in the material and moral world. It is the principle that all shadows must fall away from the light. If we walk toward the sun shadows follow us but if away from it they precede us, fit emblems of the anxieties and cares that flit ever across the pathway of the unhappy dwellers in the vale of discontent, or of that gloom that creeps into a mind turned from mental light and learning.

If "the completed human being is the one result for which all surrounding things conspire together," why grovel at the base of mountains whose very summits should be our abiding place? Why feel the heated rays at noonday only, instead of catching from yon peak the night-freshened beam as it shoots out the low rimmed east? Why take but a few hours of light falling perpendicularly upon us, when, by following the sun in its course, we may draw in the elixir of long days of brightness? I follow the lower bend of this thinking mind of mine and all day I keep it busy with things I've known before, my work, its drudgery—my neighbors, their quarrels, new gowns and bonnets; tomorrow I do the same, and the next day the same kind of thoughts flock through my head. Oft and anon as time goes by I find less and less comely thoughts among them. What does it portend?

And you, are you not heard to murmur? On your forehead queer lines are tracing themselves. When sometimes you smile they fade away, and then I know they are not made by happy smiling. You are courting care and tricking trouble to your heart. You show it in weary worries and ceaseless censuring of others. Fretting, inward and outward, is weaving a close net about you. Soon you will be bound. A thousand forebodings are casting long shadows across your present and out into your future.

Turn not that way! Rather pitch your tents upward! Throw open the curtains of body, mind and soul and let the morning rays of light shoot into them. Remember, "all things conspire to make complete human beings," and with all nature calling us to "come up, come up" to high and noble thoughts, have we excuse for the low and creeping ones that people our brains so often? Who has tried and not found that

"Lowly living and lofty thought
May adorn and ennoble the poor wainscot."

We work, and we do well to work, but most grand is that work when the sunshine of life so rests upon it that "the 'I' revels in light and only 'the case containing me' takes up the drudgery." If we could think to always walk toward the light, nor care to look upon the following shadows, nothing have we to do with future cares and troubles; fast enough they will come; at the present, enough for us to know

"God means every man to be happy, be sure. He sends us no sorrows that have not some cure,"

and that

"The common deeds of the common day
Are ringing bells in the far away."

The full flood light of hope and truth and love may fill every nook and crevice of our beings if we set aright the openings of life's tents and welcome them in. Who knows where the sunshine will strike except we turn that way? It is not ours to know whose tenting shall be brightest gilded, but all shall be warmed, if not sunlit, by it.

"No stream from its source
Flows seaward, how lonely soe'er its course,
But what some land is gladdened. No star ever
rises

And set, without influence somewhere. Who
knows
What earth needs from earth's lowest creature?
No life

Can be pure in its purpose and strong in its strife,
And all life not be purer and stronger thereby." G.

Health and Amusement.

New and Renewed Topics.

With this issue we introduce to the readers of our department a new subject that of kindergarten work in the country. The writer is a student and teacher in this line of entertaining instruction and it is with the belief that she will give some ideas to help mother and the little ones that we have asked her to explain how her methods can be made use of in the farm and other homes where kindergartens are not accessible. We feel safe to say that Miss Rogers will be glad to reply through this column to all questions that may occur to her readers to ask, providing they are of interest to all. We trust her articles may prove of a practical value to many.

A correspondent, a few weeks ago, raised some questions of propriety in regard to the way programs should be carried out. Several replies have been given to his questions—with exceptions to his notions of what is proper. Whether lady speakers should feel it a rule to orate instead of reading their essays, and presiding officers be compelled to always announce each part of their programs, and choristers to "beat time, air or something" before the singers, we are not called upon to say. Nor does a fixed law seem necessary; quite the opposite—the more variety and changes brought into entertainments the better they prove. If, therefore, by touching more broadly some of the points raised by our friend, we can induce not a rigid practice, but a trial sometimes of his suggestions the medicine, we think, will be better than the extreme. All stiffness, formal announcements and delays in conducting a meeting call attention to these minor details and lessen the interest in the real matter of the entertainment. The machinery becomes more conspicuous than the work done by it. The aim of all public efforts should be to cover up the method used that the results may stand out with greater prominence. In other words, what or who the people are who take part in the program does not much matter beside how they do that part. Acquitting themselves with credit the listeners will need no fore-running herald to tell of it. If, however, it is their unhappy misfortune to blow an unlucky wind over the coveted success of the evening, surely they will feel the least said the better. The same holds good in the matter of singing and delivery of essays. The effect of both is heightened in proportion as the machinery is removed that drilled and worked up the effort.

Talking always holds attention better than reading if the things said are half as good, and an address without notes is more forcible than the same if read. All this depends on one thing, and without that, read or spoken, they had better be omitted; that is: *it must be well done.* It is better to read a short, simple paper and read it promptly in a clear, distinct tone than to stumble through an elaborate thesis that nobody ten feet away can hear, or hearing can understand because of the disjointed reading. It is better to read well than orate poorly—gentlemen though you be. But in view of the fact that extemporaneous speaking and essays delivered without manuscript may be made more effective than reading can be, we certainly urge you to encourage a freedom from notes. Encourage it, too, among lady members as well as gentlemen, and especially among the young people, for, after all, when your Grange or other meeting has passed off nicely with no stir or unnecessary show in bringing your performers out and in their praiseworthy conduct, the greatest benefit remains to the Grange. The chief satisfaction will be in the added confidence the members will feel in their ability. They will dare grasp other opportunities for remark and effort.

There are ideas enough in every Grange—or at least material to make ideas—but the habit and assurance of telling them to others is often wanting.

Just such practice as is found in "off-hand" speaking, orating and general conversation is needed to give a better life to programs and exercises. We wonder how many Granges have good conversationalists among their members and use them as they ought. Not talkers, do we mean, but conversationalists who have the "knack" of drawing others out and into conversation. Have you such ones? You have. Then at once put them on your programs as leaders of a general talk on some current, bright topic. Let no opportunity escape to improve conversation. Everybody talks—few converse. Encourage real conversation persistently in the Grange and out. Perseverance is the only relief.

JENNIE BUELL.

Kindergarten in the Home.

It seems to be a necessity that people have amusement, and the long winter months should afford to country at least some portion of it. The young people can easily find enjoyment and the "men folks" seek recreation in the pages of a newspaper, but the "wee fingers" are often unwillingly idle, and mamma is driven to her wits' ends to find something that will amuse the children and keep them busy.

To these busy mothers a few suggestions in regard to the kindergarten methods of training and occupying the little folks may be of use. It is understood that we cannot have the kindergarten schools in the country, however much we may wish them, but it would be a great gain to childhood if every mother could have acquaintance and sympathy with the methods of such schools.

Before the time of Froebel a child was supposed to have been trained in the way he should go if at six or eight years of age he could repeat the catechism, speak when spoken to, make no noise at home week days and keep still in church on Sunday. The next step toward a better system of the education of children was sending them to a master who has been represented as severity, with spectacles and rod.

There he learned his letters and the ingenious, though perhaps unprofitable, a-b, abs. The old-fashioned ways were superseded by charts and the modifications of the word method, but till within the last quarter century Froebel's system has been unknown to any but the vanguard of educators. This distinguished German urged the harmonious development of the child, and held that he must have work, play, exercise and quietude, all united into a disciplinary whole. Let the thinking mother consider a moment and she will readily see that the ceaseless activity of a child is as necessary and as natural as its breathing and eating and is not something to be restrained and frowned down, but a God-given tendency to be directed into the most profitable channels. The occupations which I shall suggest, all have an educational value aside from serving to keep the little hands out of mischief. Pray consider that knowledge of form, color, measurements, together with habits of neatness, accuracy, attention and method, will all be of use to the toddling investigator.

Clay modeling is perhaps of as little trouble as any of the occupations, and it never fails to delight the youngsters. Clay is cheap and durable, as it can be used over and over again. It can be obtained at the potteries and at primary school supply houses. If you get it at the latter place it comes in bricks at about twenty-five cents apiece. Break into small pieces, place in a dish, and pour on enough water to moisten. After it has soaked a day or two it must be worked with the hands until about the consistency of putty. If too dry add more water. A little experience teaches how to mix it. Suggest to the children that they first make balls, and if they get them round and uniform they may keep them to harden and play with. Then if they do not themselves try, suggest something more difficult. If anything really nice or artistic is made it will encourage the children to let it harden and keep for a few days; otherwise when they are tired put the clay back into the dish, pour on a little water and cover with a cloth. Set aside and it will be ready when it is wanted again.

EMMA ROGERS.

Different Opinions.

In the VISITOR, of Feb. 1, are several items which I cannot pass without comment, especially as it is often invited. I wish, first, to reply to "E. W. S." in speaking of "Health and Amusement." The writer says: "Of health I have nothing to say, except that it is handy to have around." Now I am surprised to hear any one speak so lightly of this life's greatest blessing—compared with which all others are insignificant. I think the writer had never been much sick, nor had sickness in the family or he or she would have some good word to say of "Health." Again he speaks of "That pompous individual." I am not certain whom he means, but suppose it is the Lecturer. I can see nothing improper in announcing each part of a program before it is rendered; indeed I believe it is and always has been customary, in all societies and organizations. The chorister, too, must go through with some queer motions, according to his description. I never witnessed anything of the kind. To sum it all up, I do not believe "E. W. S." is a Patron at all—and is probably looking for a good chance to criticize. I

think if he will join our Order we will get him too much interested in the good work to find time for complaining.

Another writer, "Nancy," asks for some cheap plan of constructing a drain. Now, Sister Patron, I advise you to never have a drain of any kind. There is not more than one in twenty that is not a nuisance—a disease breeder. Of course, they can be healthfully constructed, but even then they require great care to keep them clean and pure. I had much rather, as she has, have my backyard "deluged with slops"—where it will be exposed to the sun, winds and freezing weather—nature's great purifiers—than to have them conveyed underground, shut away from all air. It is easy to save filthy slops in pails and carry them away a proper distance. "Ruth Restly" enquires, "What is the first requisite of a model home?" A model family, of course. If the inmates are cheerful and pleasant, showing a proper respect for each other's feelings, they can easily have a model home, without riches too. Some of the happiest homes are among poor people. Happy dispositions are surely the first requisite. Money cannot make a model home, where there are members of the family who are fretting and grumbling at everything that does not exactly suit. If to happy dispositions and contented minds wealth be added, all the better—but it is not a necessity.

There is one thing more which I have wished to speak of ever since the State Grange. I was one of many who put a skein of sock yarn in my valise and took it along for work. Tuesday morning Sister Mayo was going up town and kindly offered to get me some needles if I desired, which she did. (Why didn't she tell me better?) This work I took with me to the Grange Hall for two days, and although I did not knit enough to half pay me for bothering with it, it has worried my conscience ever since. My only excuse is ignorance. I had not attended a State Grange since its first session at Kalamazoo and had really forgotten how they were conducted, and that our Worthy Master would give us all the work we could attend to as I soon learned. Now, Sister Patrons, I hope not one of you, who may be elected as a member of that body, will ever carry any work from home. For visitors it is all right; but for delegates it is all wrong. We are sent there to work for our Subordinate Granges, and our time belongs to them. Well, I have confessed and feel better and now will close.

MRS. A. S. PROUT.

Doubts' Department.

The Years.

BY MISS MULOCH.

Why do we heap huge mounds of years
Before us and behind,
And scorn the little days that pass
Like angels on the wind?
Each, turning round a small, sweet face,
As beautiful as near,
Because it is so small a face
We will not see it clear.
And so it turns from us, and goes
Away in sad disdain;
Though we could give our lives for it,
It never comes again.

The Sage's Wisdom.

For nothing worthy proving can be proven,
Nor yet disproven; wherefore thou be wise.
Cleave ever to the sunnier side of doubt,
And cling to Faith beyond the forms of Faith!
She reels not in the storm of warring words.
She brightens at the clash of "Yes" and "No."
She sees the Best that glimmers through the Worst.
She feels the sun is hid but for a fight.
She spies the Summer through the Winter bud.
She tastes the fruit before the blossoms fall.
She hears the lark within the songless egg.
She finds the fountain where they would "Mirage."
—Tennyson.

Dear Nieces and Nephews.

There is something of the softness of spring in the air. I thought it but fancy that because it looked like spring it felt like spring. But to-day there is a kindlier smile on the face of the sun that reaches even down to me. How far away it makes those cold, stormy, wintry days seem, and yet they are just on the other side of yesterday.

Only a few days ago I made this entry in my note book:

"A bright day but solidly cold. Thermometer registered 12° below zero this morning, and zero at noon, the highest point reached during the day. Took a walk this afternoon. The snow squeaked and crunched under my feet and my hand soon went up to my nose, notwithstanding the bright sunshine that almost blinded me. How pure and bracing the air seemed; and sharp and biting though it was, I enjoyed my walk immensely. I met no one, saw no one, going or returning. Felt that I held a sort of proprietorship over all the white, glistening, visible world. The only sign of life about the houses I passed was the straight column of smoke issuing from the chimneys. Once I noticed an increased volume of smoke with a few sparks pour out of a chimney, and knew someone was replenishing the fire and imagined the inmates huddling around the stove discussing the 'cold snap,' and wondered what they would think if I should shout to them, 'come out where it is warm.' And I was warm, warmer when I reached home than when I left—except my nose which seems very tender this evening."

If there are more winter days in store for us before spring not only seems to be here but is here, they can not rob us of this fair day. We have it if we will

to keep and to hold until death us do part. Are we always careful enough about remembering the bright spots that are scattered along every path? Do we hold on to them strong enough? Even though they are but small patches of light on a sombre background so much greater the need of making them a part of ourselves. And if instead there is a flood of light with but occasional shade, then hold so close the brightness that the shadow cannot dim it.

Who could ask for higher praise of our Order than is found in the extracts from Julia Hunting's paper given below?

The review of the story of "Romana" by Grace, following the sketch of the author's life, in last issue, is an interesting review of an interesting book. Read it and you will want to read the book.

We are glad to have a good word spoken for "our side" by Country School Marm. Better be "custom" than want of "brains or memory."

(Of the unreasonableness of the introduction of the above it is only necessary to say that it was written in February for March 1st issue.) AUNT PRUE.

Dear Aunt Prue:

Will you allow me, in your department, to answer back to E. W. S., under Health and Amusement. He asks, "Why do the masculine gender orate without the use of notes or manuscript, but a lady must always have her paper in hand." We answer custom; are we not taught in school to be modest, not forward, while our brother is told to stand up erect and "speak his piece like a little man?" Girls are naturally sensitive and timid in the presence of an audience, and the nice distinction made by the public between what is decorum for the one and not for the other, keeps the line drawn over which but few have the nerve to step. The remedy for this is in the schools; require all alike to speak without manuscript; and right here let me suggest to those who desire to become good speakers; do not write out a full manuscript, then commit to memory; but group your topics, and think out the connection until you are familiar with language in which to clothe your ideas. In this way you cannot forget and become confused. Shall we not hear more on this subject? COUNTRY SCHOOL MARM.

"Know Thyself."

The following is an extract from an article by Hattie Ting Griswold in Chicago Tribune:

Mothers depend upon watching over their children themselves, and find it a wearing care to do so. How much better to teach them to take an intelligent interest in taking care of themselves. This will greatly relieve the mother, and be of incalculable benefit to the child throughout life. How many are destroyed for the lack of this knowledge every year. Young men and women away at school, for the first time out from under the watchful home eyes, are guilty of some imprudence or carelessness, ignorant of the serious results it may produce, and perhaps injure themselves for life, or even die prematurely from its effects.

Theodore Parker laid the foundations of the consumption from which he died, in his college days, by an entire neglect of the first principles of hygiene, of which he was completely ignorant. Studying everything else with avidity and often with unreason, he knew nothing of his own body and its needs, and ruined his fine constitution before he learned anything of it. Thousands are yearly doing the same thing, and the heads of colleges and other schools are greatly to blame that some remedy is not applied to this serious evil. It would be the most effectual check to dissipation that could be placed upon the young if they could be taught its fatal consequences to their bodies and their brains.

The Grange a School, Intellectual and Moral.

[Extract from a paper read by Sister Julia Hunting, of Courtland Grange.]

Man is an intellectual and social creature; these qualities predominate, and, if properly trained and nourished, fit him for a higher existence, both here and beyond this fleeting scene of mingled pleasure and sorrow. The intellectual nature is never dormant; intellectuality is continually developing, tending to expand and ennoble the soul, purifying the nature, or to lower the nature in the scale of humanity. Every act asserts its influence and plays upon some chord that will vibrate in eternity, swelling the glad anthem of a bountiful harvest of truth, or the sad requiem over promises blasted by the breath of error. Then how carefully should we exclude every debasing influence, and nourish every ennobling one, for by and bye these influences will blossom into the everlasting flowers of virtue and truth, leaving no room for the weeds of vice and dishonor.

"Thoughts shut up mould for want of air." In the Grange is an opportunity for an interchange of ideas, whose reciprocal influence benefits all around. This communing together of souls, united as they are by the ties of a common interest, afflicted with the same troubles, brings us into closer relation one with another, tends to develop a broader humanity, and by comparing our individual trials with the common trials of mankind, makes us forgetful of self.

* * * Our noble Order is built upon the foundation that sustains the noblest attributes of the soul. Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity are the corner-stones of our immortal brotherhood. Faith, believing in all things working for the right; Hope, looking toward the future, points the care-worn soul to the bright fields smiling in the sunshine of Faith fulfilled. Charity, teaching us to be ever ready in deeds of love and mercy, extending the right hand of fellowship to the workers of justice, and covering with a mantle of love the faults of erring repentance; Fidelity, with the helmet of Integrity and the shield of Honor, guards the entrance to our temple against evil. What higher, nobler principles than these governing and permeating every part of this nursery of everything that is pure and good, the Grange? And who that loves everything grand, can wish for anything grander than these precepts of our Order, each being, as it were, a round in the ladder reaching to the sublime heights of moral rectitude and goodness? Then let us improve these blessed privileges and sow in this field seeds for the immortal harvest, to be gathered by the hand of time, transmitting their influences to successive generations.

It appears that in six years the gold in this country has been increased by importation \$182,462,107, while the stock of silver has been reduced \$53,413,500. Along with the steady increase of gold in this country there is unvarying shipment of silver abroad, and a persistent and increasing use of silver in international trade.—Chicago Tribune.

MR. EDITOR:—I have used the Ingersol Liquid Rubber Paint, manufactured by the Patrons' Paint Works, in different localities this summer and it will take the lead of all paints. I expect to use more next summer than I have used heretofore. Yours fraternally, JOHN PARSHALL. [See advertisement of Patrons' Paint Works.—Ed.]

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Thornton Barnes, Wholesale Grocer and Grange Selling Agent, 241 North Water Street, Philadelphia, Penn. mar15y1

CHICAGO & GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY TIME TABLE, NOV. 16, 1884. Table with columns for Stations, No. 2 Mail & Express, No. 4 Day Express, No. 6 Pacific Express, No. 8 B. Creek Express, No. 10 Limited Express, No. 11 Atlantic Express, No. 12 Valp'so Ex. Sun. Includes times for stations like Ft. Huron, Chicago, and Detroit.

L. S. & M. S. R. R. KALAMAZOO DIVISION TIME TABLE. Standard time—10th meridian. GOING SOUTH. Table with columns for Stations, NY & C, NY & B, Ex. & M, Way Pt. Includes stations like Grand Rapids, Allegan, Kalamazoo, and Buffalo.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD. DEPARTURE OF TRAINS FROM KALAMAZOO. TIME TABLE—MAY 18, 1884. Standard time—10th meridian. WESTWARD. Table with columns for Stations, A. M., P. M. Includes stations like Kalamazoo, Evening Express, Pacific Express, and Day Express.

New York, Atlantic and Pacific Expresses daily. Evening Express west and Night Express east daily except Saturdays. All other trains daily except Sundays. Freight trains carrying passengers out from Kalamazoo as follows: No. 29 (east) at 5:10 P. M. and No. 30 (west) at 8:10, bringing passengers from east at 12:45 P. M. H. B. LEVY, Gen. Manager, Detroit. J. A. CRIBER, General Freight Agent, Chicago. O. W. RUGGLES, G. P. & T. A., Chicago.

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Thornton Barnes, Wholesale Grocer and Grange Selling Agent, 241 North Water Street, Philadelphia, Penn. mar15y1

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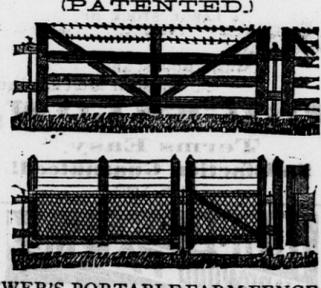
8 Canal St., Opp. Sweet's Hotel, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. 10 in 15 June 86



WHITE SEAL BURNING OIL!

The New York Board of Health estimates that 30,000 lives have been destroyed by the explosive qualities of petroleum. If every household would adopt the White Seal Oil for family use, none of these unfortunate accidents would occur. White Seal Burning Oil has none of the defects usually found in common oils. It cannot be exploded, does not char the wick, will not smoke, emits no offensive odor, and prevents the breaking of chimneys. White Seal Burning Oil is a rich oil for illuminating purposes. It is as light in color as pure spring water. It gives a strong, steady light, and burns much longer than common oils. If the White Seal Burning Oil is not sold in your vicinity, send your order direct to us for a barrel or a case containing two neat five gallon cans. BROOKS OIL CO., 55 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. 1 July

EWER'S PORTABLE Farm Fence.



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4. It is also the best permanent fence because nothing need touch the ground but an iron post, and no wind will blow it down that will not blow down buildings and uproot trees.
5. It is a perfect fence for all kinds of stock. The boards at the bottom, the braces and battens show sufficiently so that stock will not run into it as into a whole wire fence. The wires at the top prevent horses and cattle pushing against it and crowding it over as in case of ordinary board and rail fences.
6. It is cheap, costing but little if any more than an ordinary board fence.

Territory for Sale on Reasonable Terms.

Also farm rights. Any person sending us a description of his farm with three cents per acre, will receive from us a certificate of authority with full directions for manufacture for use upon his farm. For particulars call on or address

EWER & WHITE, Battle Creek, Mich. 6 1/2 in 1 Apr 86

BEANS, POTATOES, Green and Dried Fruit, Onions, Poultry, Furs, Pelts, Wool, &c., WANTED!

Those having Produce to dispose of will do well to correspond with me and get posted in their value on this market. By sending me a sample of beans (postage 1c per ounce) I will state by return mail just what you may expect net per bushel delivered at your railroad station. Sacks furnished and freight paid by me or I will sell them on your account, commission five per cent. Fraternally yours, THOS MASON, State Business Agent, 163 South Water Street, Chicago. VIRGINIA FARMS Mild Climate, Cheap homes, circular, A. O. BLISS, Centralia, Va. Jan 26

WANTED AND FOR SALE.

A few of our subscribers have taken the benefit of our offer to do a little free advertising, and we are glad of it.

FOR SALE.—Farm of eighty acres: fifty-five under cultivation, rest hardwood timber. House, barn and fences in good condition.

I HAVE still on hand 15 bushels of "Probestier" Oats, grown from seed imported from Sweden last year.

FOR SALE, WELCOME OATS!

Raised direct from Burpee's stock. Weight, 37 to 40 pounds per bushel; 50 cents per bushel cash with order.

BEES OR HONEY

SEMI-MONTHLY GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE, with a descriptive price list of the latest improvements in Hives, Honey Extractors, Artificial Comb, Section Honey Boxes, all the books and journals, and everything pertaining to Bee Culture.

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WANTED Ladies and Gentlemen to take nice light work at their homes.

FOR ALL GARDENERS BERRY PLANTS; POTATOES; etc.

Raspberry Plants, OHIOS, TYLERS, &c., by the hundred or thousand.

GERMAN CARP. Orders filled promptly, and satisfaction guaranteed; address, SILL & REEVE, Dexter, Mich.

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Farm Harness complete, 1 1/2 in. trace round lines. \$39 00

Ordered work of all description will receive close and prompt attention.

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FOR SALE.—A desirable farm of 160 acres, in good state of cultivation, with good building, orchard, &c.

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BUSINESS AGENT MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

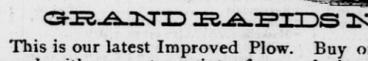
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161 South Water St., Chicago, Respectfully Solicits Consignments of

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GRAND RAPIDS NO. 50 PLOW.

This is our latest Improved Plow. Buy one of these Plows for \$10 full trimmed, with one extra point, of your dealer, and if it does not please you after a trial of one day, you may return it to the dealer and your money will be refunded.

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Weber Pianos, Knabe Pianos, Fischer Pianos, Peek Pianos.

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FRUIT BOXES BARREL HEAD LININGS. AND BASKETS. Send for Price List.

SEEDS 5 packets Flower Seed 10c. 5 packets Vegetable Seed 10c. Postpaid.



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Either by way of Omaha, Pacific Junc., St. Joseph, Atchison or Kansas City.

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From CHICAGO, PEORIA or ST. LOUIS, it runs every day in the year from one to three elegantly equipped through trains over its own tracks between Chicago and Denver, Chicago and Omaha, Chicago and Council Bluffs, Chicago and St. Joseph, Chicago and Atchison, Chicago and Kansas City, Chicago and Topeka, Chicago and Cedar Rapids, Chicago and Sioux City, Peoria and Council Bluffs, Peoria and Kansas City, St. Louis and Omaha, St. Louis and St. Paul, Kansas City and Denver, Kansas City and Omaha, Kansas City and Southwest.

Its equipment is complete and first class in every particular, and at all important points interlocking Switches and Signals are used, thus insuring comfort and safety.

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German Horse and Cow POWDERS!

This powder has been in use many years. It is largely used by the farmers of Pennsylvania, and the Patrons of that State have purchased over 100,000 pounds through their purchasing agents.

Its composition is our secret. The recipe is on every box and 5 pound package. It is made by Dr. Oberholzer's Sons & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

It helps to digest and assimilate the food. Horses will do more work with less food while using it. Cows will give more milk and be in better condition. It keeps poultry healthy and increases the production of eggs.

It is also of great value to them while molting. It is sold at the lowest possible wholesale prices by R. E. JAMES, Kalamazoo; GEO. W. HILL & CO., 80 Woodbridge St., Detroit; THOS. MASON, 181 Water St., Chicago, Ill.; and ALBERT STEGEMAN, Allegan. Put up in 60-lb. boxes (loose). Price EIGHT CENTS per lb., 30-lb. boxes of 6 1/2-lb. packages, TEN CENTS per lb.

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Cheap Farms. Splendid Climate. Short Mild Winters. Good Markets. Descriptive Land List Free.

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THE SIX SHOVEL Fremont Sulky Cultivator. Greatest Improvement ever made in Riding Cultivators. Lighter Draft, Simpler, Easier handled and more Durable than any other. A COMPLETE REVOLUTION in the method of Raising, Lowering and Guiding the shovels, saving nearly half the work. Live, Responsible Agents Wanted on unoccupied territory. We will be pleased to mail illustrated and descriptive circulars FREE to any one applying. Address FREMONT CULTIVATOR CO., Bellevue, Ohio.

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THE GALE PLOWS are made with adjustable Handles and Beams, straight or slanting Land Sides and Gale's Patent Standard Jointer and Knee Cutter. They are the lightest draft and most perfect Chilled Plows made. All of the Gale Cultivators are made with split Tongues, and with four or six shovels and center tooth for fallow. Shovels can be adjusted to any depth desired and made to throw to or from the plant.



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