

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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A. C. GLIDDEN, Editor,  
PAW PAW, MICH.

### The Depressed Condition of Agriculture—Its Remedies and its Future.

The history of the growth in wealth and population of the United States, during the past hundred years, reads more like a romance than sober and matter of fact history; and in studying her industrial development, we cannot help being surprised to see how closely interwoven are the various industries that give employment and furnish food for her constantly increasing population.

So closely connected are the East and West by the network of railroads that bind them together, that any disturbance in financial matters affects both equally. If the farms lying in the rich valleys of the Mississippi, and its tributaries, yield an abundant harvest, commerce straightway feels the effect; her wheels are set in motion and give employment to the armies under her control. Manufactures are increased because of the brightened prospects of a future market, and the financial centres are placed upon a solid foundation. It seems as though an industry, holding in its possession the power to make or unmake the prosperity of all other industries connected with it, should, from the very nature of things be able to dictate to the world, and within itself be enabled to regulate and fix the prices of its own commodities. But its strength is its greatest weakness. Its magnitude, its extent of territory, its dependence upon natural causes, the seemingly conflicting interests, all combine to bind the giant hand and foot, and deliver it over to those whose very life depends upon its prosperity. The past twenty years have wrought wonderful changes in our financial system, and have made finance a more potent factor in our national life than any of its component parts. Our financial system, dependent as it is upon our national legislation, has as much influence upon our prosperity, if not more, than all else combined. The withholding from circulation of vast sums of money at critical periods, as has often been done, has not only had the effect of cheapening agricultural products, but has wrecked unnumbered business ventures, thrown thousands of men out of employment, and what it has undone in a single day has taken years of patient labor to repair.

If the withdrawal of money from circulation reacted upon all classes alike, it would in time work out its own remedy; but such, unfortunately, is not the case. A comparison between the leading industries will, I believe, show that agriculture has suffered a greater depression than any other industry.

Let me call your attention to a few statistics taken from our census reports: The total number of people in the United States employed in all the gainful pursuits in the year 1870, was

in round numbers 12½ millions, of which 47.3-10 per cent were engaged in agriculture and were farming nearly 408,000,000 acres, valued at 9¼ millions, or \$22.71 per acre. The average number of acres in each farm was 153, making their average value \$3,475, and producing an average value of \$650 of ten of the principal crops raised upon the farm. Ten years later the number of people engaged in all the gainful pursuits was 17½ millions, of which 44.1-10 per cent were engaged in farming and were farming 536,000,000 acres of land, valued at over \$10,000,000,000 or \$19.02 per acre. The average number of acres, in each farm was 134, with an average value of \$2,549, and producing an average value of \$533 of ten of the principal crops raised upon the farm. The value of the product per acre of the land devoted to breadstuff in 1870, was \$15.30, in 1880 was \$11.75, in 1888 it was \$9.41. To sum it up, in eighteen years we had increased the area under cultivation 118 per cent, while the gross value of the products raised on the farms only increased 29 per cent in value during the same period; and at the same time the per cent of those engaged in agriculture had decreased from 15 persons in 100 in 1870 to 11 in 1880, and I believe the present census will show a further decrease, from the fact that purely agricultural countries so far as I have been able to learn have decreased in population.

I submit to you the question: If an industry, while making this great addition to its capital stock, and at the same time increasing the gross value of its produce in so small a proportion, is not in a depressed condition?

I have shown that the farmers gross output has steadily decreased in value, so far as grain crops are concerned and will only refer you to the prices of live stock to convince you that in this also has he suffered.

|      | HORSES. | COWS. | CATTLE. | SHEEP. | HOGS.  |
|------|---------|-------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1870 | \$78    | \$37  | \$22    | \$2.32 | \$6.20 |
| 1880 | 58      | 23    | 17      | 2.39   | 4.70   |
| 1890 | 68      | 22    | 15      | 2.27   | 4.72   |

To show that the agriculturist does not stand alone in this depreciation I will merely refer to the fact that the general average of manufacturers' profits dwindled from an average of 45 per cent in 1870, down to the comparatively insignificant sum of 36 per cent in 1880.

I have been unable to ascertain from the last census reports sufficient data to make a computation that would be anywhere near correct, and can only refer you to one manufacturing establishment in a neighboring city as a fair sample. The company that I refer to is engaged in manufacturing drills, with a capital stock of \$50,000; the gross value of their output in 1890 was \$80,000, deducting from this the raw material and wages paid, which amounted to \$56,000, leaves a profit of \$24,000, or 48 per cent on the capital stock invested.

Political economists are prone to lay the burden of trouble to over production, but I shall claim that so far as the United States are concerned there is none, taking a series of years together. To be sure, we may have a superabundant crop of a cereal this year, but next year there will be a failure or shrinkage in the area that will consume the entire product. Take for example the wheat crop of 1890, it falls short in bushels nearly

17,000,000, and in value \$50,500,000 that of the year 1888. At first sight this seems a strange anomaly, but when we consider that we are now entering upon a new era in economics, it does not seem at all out of place. The conditions of industrial affairs have entirely changed during the last quarter of a century. The methods of production and consumption of agricultural and manufactured articles have undergone great changes. Where a community at one time supplied itself with all the articles necessary to civilization, now the conditions are so changed by labor-saving and multiplying machinery that the greater volume produced must seek another market. We have reached the period where we must create less or consume more. Both are alike repugnant to us, as it seems like retrogression or extravagance, and so arises the necessity for a wider market. We are now confronted with a problem as great as any this nation has been called upon to settle, involving as it does the future welfare of all the industrial classes of the world.

The successful exchange of commodities between nations, has come to be governed by two laws. First, the natural law of supply and demand; second, transportation; and steam, and its new auxiliary, electricity, are the agents which do its bidding and come nearer than anything else towards placing mankind upon an equality as regards the prices of agricultural and manufactured products. Should there be a scarcity in one part of the civilized world, and an abundance in another, the news is flashed across the wires and the articles in demand are transported by steam to where they are needed, and thus any over production finds a ready market. Does it not seem to you as though the government, in placing these mighty instruments of a nations welfare in the hands of private corporations or individuals, had entrusted to their keeping the individual welfare of her citizens as well.

None will deny that the railroads have done as much if not more than anything else to develop our country and add to its wealth and prosperity, but it seems to me that we have paid them back a hundred fold. We have placed the means in their power to regulate the prices of farm products, to a certain extent, subsidized them by large grants of land, given them the right to say when and where trains shall run; in short, placed in their hands the power to make or unmake commercial centres. We have to-day the spectacle of one man holding in his grasp, enough through rail road lines, to dictate to the rest of the transportation companies their tariff schedules, and bidding defiance to one of the highest tribunals of the land. No more cogent reason can be offered than this, why the government should assume, to a certain extent, the control and management of through lines of rail road. There are a number of reasons why such an action would be of benefit to the farmers; chief among them are these: Transportation rates would not vary with the whim or selfishness of the parties controlling the rail road. On the other hand, freight and passengers would not be transported at a loss, for the double purpose of driving out the smaller stock-

holders and ruining a rival road. Rail road magnates would not be allowed to bond and mortgage the rail roads for more than their cash value, and the practice of manipulating the market value of their stocks would, in time, become a lost art. Freight and passenger traffic would become cheaper because more economical measures could be used in construction of railways running into our great cities. Take for instance the city of Chicago, the commercial centre of the agricultural portion of the United States. Owing to her unprecedented growth, land values in the business centres have rapidly increased in value and reached such a height that it is almost impossible for a new line of railway to reach a position that will give them terminal facilities, that will enable them to compete with lines constructed when no one could imagine her greatness. In cases like these, the government exercising the right of eminent domain that would justly belong to her, could dictate where the road should run even if it should be over a rival route. In this case, the compensation given could take into account the services rendered the public as well as the damage done the property sequestered. For these and many other reasons do I believe it would be better for the people to extend the powers of the government. It already has the right to control and regulate the commerce between states, given it by the constitution. But one word further in connection with this topic. I know that a great many people dread the idea of governmental control of enterprises that are now under private direction, and the cry of an army of office holders to be changed at every new administration would be raised. It seems as though there might be the same tactics employed in this that there is in the highest tribunal in the land. A court, greater than the greatest law making power of the land, aside from the people themselves. The Supreme Court of the United States who, "sitting in a little back room in Washington, interpret the laws placed upon the statute books by congress," and five of these men can say whether the laws enacted by sixty-five millions of people, through their representatives, shall stand. And yet they gain their office by appointment and hold through life. Once on the bench they are placed beyond the control of President or Congress, beyond the reach of any power in the government or the people, save the power of impeachment or the power that amends the constitution.

(CONTINUED.)

### Government Loans on Real Estate.

ED. VISITOR:

In my paper published in your last issue, I said that "I find but one precedent for the government loans project." There was however, a move in that direction in 1876, the result of which may be interesting to your readers. (See Youngs American Statesman page 655, and Benton's Views, page 652.)

In June 1836, a bill passed Congress, to deposit the surplus in the Treasury of the United States with the several states in proportion to their respective representation in the Senate and House of Representatives; and to be returned to the National Treasury when called for. About

\$28,000,000 was thus deposited. Mr. Benton denounced the measure, "as distribution in disguise, a deposit never to be reclaimed, a miserable evasion of the Constitution, an attempt to debauch the people with their own money, as plundering instead of defending the Country, and as a cheat for political effect." President Jackson signed the bill, with great "repugnance of feeling" and "recoil of judgement;" and so he afterwards publicly declared with "deep regret." Mr. Benton's declarations and prediction proved true in every respect; and the money has never been returned to the government. The state of New York received \$4,000,000, as its quota, and the state authorized it to be loaned on farm mortgages. The Comptroller of the state, under date of Jan. 7th, says:

"The money was authorized to be invested upon bond and mortgage on improved real estate by county commissioners, appointed by the governor in each county, pursuant to a statute passed by the Legislature. Those securities, and the manner of the investment of the said funds upon real estate, as provided, have not met with the approval of the financial officers of the state for a number of years past. It has been the policy of the comptroller to withdraw said funds from the county commissioners as fast as possible, and invest the same himself in public securities. The amount still outstanding in the hands of the county commissioners, and invested upon real estate in the several counties of the state, is about \$1,500,000. The rate of interest on such securities at present, as provided by statute, is 5 per cent per annum. Experience has shown that the said investments upon real estate are not safest. While the rate of interest provided is large for a first-class security yet, when we have to foreclose, as is frequently the case, it is often difficult to realize from the proceeds of the sale the full amount of principal due. At present there is no authority in this state for investing public funds upon real estate security, except in regard to the United States deposit fund."

We have been reading "Black Beauty, His Grooms and his Companions," the Uncle Tom's Cabin of the Horse. It is a remarkable story, told by the horse himself, of the woes endured from hard usage, and the delights of kind, intelligent treatment. It is so realistic that it kindles a feeling of companionship—kinship almost, and must enlist the sympathy of every reader, for so intelligent an animal, so liable to abuse. The story of Black Beauty is the story of many a farm favorite—petted in his prime and jockeyed about after ill treatment has spoiled his early usefulness and vim. How many old horses we see on the street with a dejected, melancholy air and gait that we formerly knew as sprightly and active, the pride of their owner; now spavined or wind broken from hard usage. Every owner of a horse should read it and then lend it to probable owners. Send 10 two-cent stamps to Geo. T. Angell, 19 Milk St., Boston, and the book will be sent post-paid.

**Dealings in Options.—What the Transactions Are.**

In order so to discuss option dealing in farm products that the reader may understand what the writer's conception of the term is, it will be best to illustrate by saying that on Sept. 30 "A." contracts to sell and deliver, and "B." to receive and pay for, 10,000 bushel of the speculative grade of wheat at \$1 per bushel, delivered at seller's option in December. There are also forms of option dealing which boards of trade do not recognize as regular, but wink at, such as "puts and calls," and a process obtains called "pringing out," whereby a vast majority of deals are daily settled by a kind of clearing-house operation without any semblance of delivery.

Under the contract supposed, "A." has the "option" of delivering the wheat at such time during December as he may elect, the term "option" having reference solely to the time when during the month named, the seller may declare the contract matured; but not one such contract in a thousand is ever carried into effect by the delivery of property, it being a matter of common notoriety that in at least 999 out of every 1,000 such transactions, "A." neither owns nor expects to own the grain he contracts to sell and deliver, nor does "B." expect to receive the wheat he entered into a contract to receive and pay for, the tacit understanding being, that should the price of wheat, at maturity of contract, have advanced to \$1.05 per bushel, "A." shall, instead of delivering to "B." 10,000 bushels, pay him the difference between the then market price and the contract price, which being 5 cents per bushel, "A." pays "B." \$500. On the other hand, should the price have declined 5 cents, "B." would settle the deal by paying "A." \$500.

In all time contracts entered into upon boards of trade—and this term is used to designate all exchanges where such contracts are made—with very rare exceptions neither seller nor buyer owns or expects to own a single pound of the commodities in which they pretend to deal, nor do they contemplate the delivery or receipt of such commodities, but each hopes the price will turn in his favor and enable him to win. Thus the transaction bears the same relation to commerce as does a wager upon a horse race, the only difference being, that in one case a definite sum is at stake, while in the other, the wager is an indefinite one, that the price of wheat, in some future month, will vary from a stated sum, the amount of the wager being measured by such variation, and the winning party is determined, not by supply and demand, but by as incalculable a contingency as the preponderance of the "bull" or "bear" element when the contract matures.

After the making of such a contract, "A." is "short" of December wheat and is designated as a "bear," and "B." is "long" of December wheat and is classed as a "bull."

**HOW PRICES ARE DEPRESSED.**

As, nine-tenths of the time, more option dealers are interested in depressing than advancing prices, the weight and influence of the speculative body is almost continually exerted in depressing prices. First comes the constitutional bear, who, from long habit of thought or a pessimistic mental tendency, has come to believe prices are always too high; then the professional bear, who, knowing it is easier to depress than advance prices, sells below the current price property he does not own, and whose winnings depend upon lower prices, exerts all his ingenuity in exaggerating the extent of the supply and fabrication of such reports of failures, panics, stringent money markets, and the great breadth of, and favorable conditions surrounding, the growing crops as will tend to cause the "longs" to become panic stricken and throw their holdings on the market and thus depress prices to a point that will enable him to win. Next comes the speculator, who, being convinced prices are too low and must advance greatly, intends to profit by the expected rise, but being "out of the market"

and desiring to get in as cheaply as possible, becomes an active and unscrupulous bear, exerting himself to the utmost to depress prices that he may buy the more cheaply and increase his margin for winnings. Thus the efforts of nearly all the devotees at this singular commercial shrine make for lower prices, being effectually aided by a constant fear, on the part of holders, that prices will recede and entail loss.

The bears act upon the knowledge that men can be terrorized into selling, and any improbable tale of disaster will have an influence; hence, when they raid the market the air is thick with rumors of failures, panics, and wide-spread commercial disaster, coupled with the offering of more grain than there is in the country, the result being that the bull becomes, in turn, nervous, timid and then panic stricken, and being unable to respond to calls for increased margins, throws his grain overboard, adding greatly to the swelling tide and helping further to depress the price. Large holdings of fictitious products, on the part of the "bulls," are as great a menace to the stability of prices as are the immense offerings of the bears, and when forced overboard, by bear strategy, result in disastrous effects upon prices and the prosperity of the producers, the prices for whose products are determined by these operations.

The senseless terror which seizes the bull, often caused by his inability to respond to calls for margin, is one of the most serious phases of option dealing, making of the bull a most effective instrument in producing a rapid and great shrinkage in values; hence, the operations of the speculative bull and bear are equally to be deprecated and equally harmful.

"A." among thousands of others, having contracted to deliver what he does not own and is unable to buy, except at a price greater than that at which he had agreed to sell, resorts to all conceivable devices and misrepresentations to break the market and so cheapen products, before the maturity of his contract, as to leave a difference in his favor, or that will enable him to buy a like amount of speculative grain at a price lower than that named in his contract with "B."

What with multitudes of bears, with contracts maturing and a contingent of bulls anxious to "get in on breaks," an immense majority of speculators are ever working for lower prices and offering million on million of fiat products, and with each drop in price having a profit, multiply the offerings, such additional tenders further depressing prices; and thus without possessing a fraction of the products offered, these men are, by one round in the grain pits, able to depreciate in value the entire grain product of the country, such depreciation sometimes representing a large part of the year's earnings of millions of farmers.

How different is the course of the legitimate dealer owning or having the means of producing the commodities offered for sale! All his efforts are directed towards securing good prices, steadiness in demand, and freedom from rapid and wide oscillations in values. The seller who is an owner of property never depreciates its value, nor does he depress prices by offerings of impossible quantities which it would be impracticable to deliver.

On the other hand the option dealer is such an exceptional product of civilization, and short selling such a singular commercial method, that dealer and method are alike unique, being the only person and method ever engaged in systematically depreciating what the person proposes to sell by such method, and such phases of option dealing and board of trade methods are not inaptly characterized in the following paragraph from a recent issue of a leading Chicago journal:

"The trouble with the board of trade seems to be that instead of being, as it ought to be, a body of intelligent merchants devoted to the advancement of legitimate business, and an intelligent study of questions affecting the control of the products of the West and their direction to the Chicago

market, they seem to have reached the level of a body of mere speculative 'scalpers,' living off each other, producing nothing, and in no sense contributing by their industry to the general good."

Nothing could be more destructive of the interest alike of producer and legitimate dealer than the practices now obtaining on the boards of trade, where, for each unit of any actual product sold and delivered thousands of fictitious units are offered at prices sometimes 1 to 5 per cent. below the price obtaining for actual product. For instance, not long since Minneapolis millers were paying 3½ cents more for actual wheat than was asked for speculative futures, owing doubtless to the fact that the mill has not been invented which will convert figments into merchantable flour. Such practices result in abnormal and excessive fluctuations in values—fluctuations so rapid as to bewilder those on the spot, as is shown by a recent Chicago market report in the statement that—"The uncertainty with which the market moved yesterday may be illustrated by an incident. One trader having purchased 25,000 bushels December wheat at \$1.02½ stepped out of the pit. He had been out but a moment when he heard a great hubbub, rushed in under the impression that the market was dropping on him, frantically inquired the price, was told it was 'seven-eighths', sold his wheat at that price, was cursing his luck over a loss of 'three-eighths' when he heard the remark that it was a quick 'bulge' and learned it was \$1.02½ instead of \$1.01½, and that he had a profit of five-eighths instead of a loss."

Such conditions could not obtain were men dealing in products instead of fictions, as an immense capital would be involved instead of insignificant margins, and callow youths could not sell millions on a capital of a few hundred dollars.

Such fluctuations inevitably destroy legitimate grain buying for the purpose of holding for a profit, whereas a few years since, men could be found at every village in the producing districts who stored grain for an advance; now, however, the buyer is so thoroughly impressed with the danger arising from these fluctuations, that he hastens to sell his grain as soon as bought, and when shipping takes the precaution to sell to effect sales, afraid to strike the market for a single day. Like conditions obtain in the large cities where owners of elevators are, in order to employ their warehouses, forced to purchase grain, glad to secure an advance equal to the ordinary carrying charge. With the option dealer dominating the market and in a position to destroy values, men are unwilling to risk the holding of farm products; hence each buyer in turn hurries the grain out of his hands, and prices cannot advance because of the pressure to sell induced by the fear of a sudden fall in price, and the result is that from two-thirds to three-fourths of the bins in the grain elevators of Chicago and other cities stand idle the year through. [See report Chicago board of trade, 1888, pp. 114, 115, and report St. Louis Merchants Exchange, 1889, pp. 102, 141.]

So completely are producer and distributor at the mercy of those selling mere figments, that the packer daily buying a thousand hogs, the products from which require weeks to cure, is forced to seek protection against excessive fluctuations by selling for future delivery an amount of product equal to that from the hogs bought, and thus guard against a possible loss resulting from fluctuations which the exercise of no amount of sound judgment will enable the business man to measure, as none can measure the vagaries of a pitful of frantic speculators whose operations are as devoid of business deliberation as of commercial morality.

The following telegram to the Globe-Democrat but faintly describes a scene in the provision pit—a scene well worthy the pencil of a Hogarth:

"Chicago, April 11, 1890. The provision pit, on the board of trade, which has been almost deserted for several weeks, has

been filled since the opening of the board this morning, with a frantic crowd of yelling bettors. As soon as the board opened, it became rumored that there was a 'corner' in pork in contemplation and a wild scramble of shorts to cover followed."

**CONTEMPLATED LEGISLATION.**

There is not an article that has known the blighting touch of the option dealer, that it is not hazardous for the legitimate dealer to handle, and grain is made a veritable shuttlecock of, by a body of men, the majority of whom are known by the suggestive title of "scalpers," and whose entire capital is barely sufficient to buy a board of trade membership, or "margin" a purchase or two of fiat grain; and yet the Chicago Board of Trade memorializes Congress, opposing the passage of the Butterworth bill.

Aside from its postulates, the memorial seems to be compounded in about equal parts of sophistications, pretended solicitude for the farmer and special pleadings for continuance of a system which the judgment of the people condemns, and the abolition of which would not cause even a ripple upon the stream of trade, much less a commercial convulsion.

When we reflect that only grain, hog products; cotton, coffee and petroleum are the subjects of option sales, while thousands of other commodities are readily bought and sold without the factitious aid of the option dealer and have thus far escaped the blighting effects of board of trade methods, and that the natural relation of supply and demand determines the price for nearly all such articles, one cannot but hope that congress will, by the enactment of an effective measure, relegate the staples, subject to board of trade manipulation, to such commercial methods as suffice for all other commodities.

Outside of New York, boards of trade furnish no information as to the extent of option sales, but they are prodigious and exceed the entire product so dealt in two or three hundred times, while the offerings which do not mature even into option sales, are ten to thirty times as much as the option sales, and it is these limitless offers, as well as such sales, which depress prices. If sales were confined to actual commodities and delivery necessarily followed maturity of contract, offers would be limited by the amount available for delivery.

Now, however, it is not unusual for as much fiat wheat to be sold in a day as there is of actual grain received in a year. For instance, on the 14th of April New York speculators sold 44,000,000 bushels of fiat wheat—probably more than twice as much as will reach that city this year—while the offerings in a single day at either Chicago or New York are said to often exceed 100,000,000 bushels, such offerings having the intended effect of depressing prices. Although there is no means of determining the volume of the sales, yet we can get some conception thereof from a few days' option sales of wheat at New York as set forth in press dispatches and the following table where the synchronous sales of actual product is shown in parallel columns:

| Date 1890.    | Sales actual wheat, Bushels. | Option sales fictitious wheat, Bushels. |
|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| April 8.....  | 63,000                       | 18,400,000                              |
| April 9.....  | 54,000                       | 20,000,000                              |
| April 12..... | 1,800                        | 10,080,000                              |
| April 14..... | 6,000                        | 44,000,000                              |
| Sept. 3.....  | 8,000                        | 8,000,000                               |
| Sept. 4.....  | 32,000                       | 6,400,000                               |
| Sept. 15..... | 62,000                       | 7,240,000                               |
| Oct. 22.....  | 12,000                       | 4,000,000                               |
| Oct. 23.....  | 64,000                       | 3,000,000                               |
| Oct. 24.....  | 35,000                       | 4,600,000                               |
| Total.....    | 337,800                      | 125,720,000                             |

This table shows that during the days named, for each bushel of wheat sold, New York option dealers sold 372 bushels of fiat grain, and that it would require but 36 days for them to sell options equaling in amount an average wheat crop, and this is but one of many boards of trade constantly preying upon the producer.

If this system is a part of and the outgrowth of our civilization should we not, as with other malignant growths, eliminate it before the operation can cause a commercial convulsion amount-

ing even to a local calamity?—C. Wood Davis, in Country Gentleman.

**Good Return from Topdressing.**

It has been the custom with us to haul the cattle manure direct to the grass lands as it is made, and the longer we follow the practice the more certain we are that in no other way can a farm be more rapidly improved. By no manipulation can manure be made richer in the elements of fertility than when first produced. Then why store it and risk the danger of waste from exhalation and leaching? By applying in its fresh, coarse state we get all the plant nutrition there is in it, and in addition have the benefit of it as a protection to grass roots in winter, and a shelter from the scorching heat of summer. Year by year our fields increase their yield of corn and grass—other crops are of secondary importance with us in this dairying region. When we began the experiment we were almost alone in it, but gradually our neighbors adopted the system, and it invariably shows its advantage in the increased productiveness of the farms. I cannot imagine a farm so poor that by stocking it to its capacity and applying the manure to the surface as fast as made it cannot be rapidly increased in productiveness. I have seen very thin land, with apparently no grass on it, treated through winter with the manure from the stables, that by the next autumn was so heavily coated with white clover as to draw the attention of passers by. —Wm. T. Smedley, Chester county, Penn., in N. Y. Tribune.

**Hints about Hiring Help.**

Mere muscular strength does not denote most usefulness on the farm. Note in a prospective hired man the energy and sense used in expending it. Sometimes one man does as much work in two days as another in three. Skill in directing muscle and ability to turn off work without slighting it are valuable essentials. Better pay a good man fair wages than get a cheap one for his board; and this is not saying anything about listless, idle men; it merely considers the difference between industrious hands. A man's habits and demands should have weight when employing. Addicted to tobacco—especially smoking—risk of fire is increased, and time is lost in using the weed or going to get it. However low wages a drunkard may ask, he has no proper place on the farm. The obscene, profane man, coarse and unclean, should be avoided like contagion. Against the losses he causes there is no insurance. His damage is the contamination of employer, family and neighborhood. —Hollister Sage.

At the recent Ingham County Institute the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, It has come to our knowledge that there will be an effort made by some of the members of the present legislature to abolish our present system of county superintendency of schools and return to some system of town supervision; and,

WHEREAS, The former experiences of our state in town supervision conclusively proves that in a majority of instances it was impossible to secure persons in the township who were fully competent to perform the duties belonging to such a position, and that the compensation was insufficient and the field of labor too limited to induce any to prepare themselves fully for the performance of those duties; therefore,

Resolved, That we look with disfavor upon any movement that will in any way tend to make such supervision less efficient in our educational system and we will antagonize such a movement in every honorable way.

Relative to the taxation of property, the following resolutions were adopted as expressive of the views of the institute:

Resolved, That we approve of the principle of taxing all property, except that used for religious and benevolent purposes.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the repeal of the present so-called mortgage tax law, unless something better in the same line be substituted.



## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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## Loans by the Government to Citizens.

It is not generally known, even to the average student of history, that loans by government to individuals is not a new and untried enterprise. In the year 1836, when the United States, by sale of public land, had nearly cleared itself from debt, Congress passed an act dividing among the several states the surplus money in the U. S. treasury, above five millions of dollars, on the basis of the number of electors in each state. After Jan. 1st, 1837, and during that year, \$28,000,000 were thus distributed. The states used the surplus variously. Some involved themselves in extensive internal improvements, notably among them were Pennsylvania and Michigan. Three railroads and a ship canal were projected across this state, and into this scheme Michigan's share of the surplus, over a million and a half of dollars, was dumped and lost.

It is with the action of the state of New York regarding her share, however, that we have to do in this connection. This surplus money they decided to loan to the citizens of the state in petty sums on real estate security. Historians of the time give little information regarding the effect upon individuals or upon business. Bryant, in his history of the United States, sums it up in a short paragraph. He says: "Never was there a more unsatisfactory business operation."

Other contemporaneous writers are strangely if not shamefully silent. From several old men now living, who were citizens of the state at that time, we have by a good deal of inquiry gleaned much interesting information.

When the project was announced, and the news spread through the state, applications for loans were so plenty, and individuals so clamorous, that the amount available was many times overdrawn, and a pro rata distribution was made. The citizen who applied for \$1000 received only two or three hundred. Later on the person who really wanted \$1000, applied for \$5000, in order to secure the necessary sum. The unwritten history of this "unsatisfactory business operation" would be good reading, and a salutary lesson to Alliance advocates of the two per cent government loan, and other corn-crib-currency financiers.

The panic of 1837 followed immediately upon this government distribution, not as a sequence probably, but in spite of this "relief" which the government so lavishly extended to farmers. The "hard times" continued for ten years following this, and is explained by Bryant, a contemporaneous writer, in this way: "Expanded credit, which an oversanguine confidence sought, created widespread bankruptcy, and states as well as individuals put in the bankruptcy plea."

J. D. Hammond, in his Political History, says: "This surplus congress, by law, against the wishes of President Van Buren and his confidential advisers and friends (foreseeing, as they probably did, the embarrassment which would result from the proposed measure) ordered to be distributed among the States, etc. Every historian who has recorded any expression of opinion regarding the act, or its effect upon the depressed condition of business at the time, either apologizes for the indiscretion of congress, or condemns the measure as unwise. Yet there are those who are striving to help history repeat itself and bring upon us a return of those dark days of disaster, so clearly within the memory of the men of that day who still survive."

We visited the Cass County Farmers' Institute at Dowagiac on the 21st of last month and found a full attendance and much enthusiasm prevailing. Miss Jennie Buell, secretary of the Michigan State Grange, was on the program for a paper on "Our Ideals," and Jason Woodman, past lecturer, talked upon "Farmers' Organizations." We arrived too late for the first, and could not stay in the evening to hear the last. Each, however, is highly commended, both by the general public and by the press, for the value of the subject matter of their addresses and the excellent method of presentation. "The Causes of Depression in Agriculture" was well treated by Henry Kimmerly, but the discussion brought out no new facts or valuable suggestions; every one seems to be looking to some one else for a solution of the difficulty. B. Hathaway talked about the "Apple Orchards of Cass County," recommending Russian varieties for future planting. The institute is pronounced the best for several years.

We have a circular letter from the lecturer of the National Grange in relation to the subterfuge practiced by oleomargarine manufacturers in sneaking their products into States having laws restricting its sale by claiming exemption from tax under the "original package" decision. The circular recommends petitioning congress in favor of a bill prepared by Mr. Anthony Higgins, of Delaware. The bill is known as senate bill No. 3911, and is entitled: "A bill subjecting oleomargarine to the provisions of the laws of the several States."

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled:

That no State shall be held to be limited or restrained in its power to prohibit, regulate, control or tax the sale, keeping for sale or the transportation as an article of commerce or otherwise to be delivered within its own limits, of oleomargarine, as defined by section 2, of chapter 842, of the laws of the forty-ninth congress, by reason of the fact that the same has been imported into such State from beyond its limits, whether there shall or shall not have been paid thereon any tax, duty, im-

port or excise to the United States.

## Juvenile Granges.

The manuals for juvenile Granges are now out of press, and orders for the same will be promptly filled by the Secretary of the National Grange. All orders for the manual must be officially signed and sealed by the subordinate or juvenile Grange making the same, or in absence of the seal, be approved by the Master or Secretary of the State Grange.

The manual is neatly bound, and put up in cases of one set (13 books) each. Price \$1.50 per set, or 20 cents per single copy. Cash should accompany the orders. J. J. WOODMAN, Sec'y Ex. Com. N. G. P. of H.

## How Reach Delinquents.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE, SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MARCELLUS, Feb. 9, 1891.—From the outlook of the secretary's office Grange work throughout the State is encouraging. At least seven subordinate Granges have revived and are doing good service. That zealous Grange county, Kalkaska, claims the honor of organizing the first new Grange of 1891. Several Pomona secretaries report large additions to their membership and correspondingly increased interest.

To ward against a falling off in old membership that shall offset these new gains, Worthy Master Mars has recommended the appointment of a committee on delinquent members. Permit me to call the attention of such committees to the "Notices to Delinquents" (see list of supplies, page 7) which the State Grange has provided for the use of secretaries of subordinate Granges or other authorized parties.

When sent as a drop letter or courteously presented in person, one of these affords a business-like reminder of a members' neglect of his duty to the order, which can not give offense. From the very small number of these "notices" ordered by the Granges of the State, and the frequency with which "suspensions for non-payment of dues" appears on the quarterly reports, I draw my conclusions that the use of this reminder should increase.

Paid up members are surest to declare your programs successes and solicit new members. We believe the Grange to be an educator. Let us make our business methods and promptness exemplify our belief.

Fraternally,  
JENNIE BUELL, Sec'y.

Expressions of approval and commendation for the tone and matter contained in the VISITOR are constantly coming with new names and the renewals, which is very encouraging, and stimulates to renewed effort; but we want a wider audience for the paper. Farmers outside the Grange like it, and no more efficient aid to Grange organization can be utilized than an effort to extend the circulation of the paper into intelligent rural homes.

We call special attention to the advertisement of A. W. Haydon, who is breeding excellent horses, and when he says he will sell, he means business. We can vouch for Mr. Haydon's integrity and reputation for fair dealing.

We learn that the Lansing Co-operative Association has changed managers. E. F. Chapin succeeds E. R. Osband. This is one of the institutions organized through Grange effort and has been sustained by the order.

In a private letter to the VISITOR, the State lecturer says: The tenor of the farmers' thoughts is 'organization,' and the sentiment favorable to the Grange is in the ascendancy. I hope to have a word for the paper soon.

The farmer who owns a dog whose hide would make a good rug, should treat himself to a rug without delay.

## Communications.

## Ingham County Pomona Grange.

Once more the call of Pomona aroused the Patrons of Ingham county, and in obedience to her request members from every Grange in the county wended their way, January 23d and 24th, toward the Capital City, where a Farmers' Institute was to be held under the auspices of the Ingham County Pomona Grange.

At 1 o'clock Friday afternoon, a large number being present, Worthy Master Hewitt called to order and proceeded with the program.

All joined heartily in singing the opening ode used by Capital Grange, after which Prof. Pattengill was introduced, who commanded the interest and attention of all present by his address on "Three Good Things," viz:

1. Uniformity of text books.
2. The grading of country schools.
3. The county supervision of schools.

The speaker urged the necessity of uniform text books in the district, in the township, in the county, and even in the state, and spoke of various ways in which the system could be adopted. He explained the manner in which country schools were graded, and said that much good had already been done in that direction. He recommended the county supervision of schools as one of the best methods of insuring efficiency in school work.

After discussion on the above subjects a resolution was presented endorsing the present system of county superintendency, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. G. C. Wheeler then came forward with an interesting paper on "Farmers' Rights," in which he urged the necessity of farmers to assert their rights and to uphold the measures pertaining to their interest.

Recess was then declared, after which Sergeant Conger, director of the state weather service, gave a lecture on the benefits of the service to agriculture. The frost lines of the state received particular attention, and various questions were answered in regard to protecting crops from frost.

## EVENING SESSION.

The installation of officers of Ingham Co. Pomona Grange occupied the early part of the evening. The remainder was devoted to an address by President Clute on the "Michigan Agricultural College," illustrated by stereopticon views.

## SATURDAY, 9:30 A. M.

The morning session was opened by singing, after which the subject of "Clover and its Relation to Agriculture" was well discussed in a paper presented by Mr. P. G. Holden, in which he favored clover for fertilization in preference to commercial fertilizers.

"Some of the injurious forms of Fungi" were then illustrated and described by Mr. J. W. Toumey. Parasitic fungi injure plants 1st. By depriving them of nourishment; 2nd. By restricting their power for assimilating; 3rd. By abnormally increasing or decreasing growth, causing distortion; 4th. By producing decay in ripe fruits; 5th. By diseased plants causing the infection of healthy plants of the same species. The speaker then advanced methods for the destruction of the forms of fungi which had been described.

After the discussion which followed, a recitation entitled "The Schoolmaster's Guests" was neatly rendered by Miss Mary Shaffer.

The subject of "Home Floriculture" was then introduced in a paper presented by Howard J. Hall, in which he gave particular attention to the improvement of grounds and the selection and arrangement of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Dinner was then announced, and that part of the program was, as usual, cheerfully executed.

## SATURDAY, 1:30 P. M.

The afternoon session opened with music, followed by the almost unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That we approve of the principle of taxing all property except that used for

religious and benevolent purposes.

2nd. Resolved, That we are opposed to the repeal of the present so-called mortgage law, unless something better in the same line be substituted.

An interesting paper entitled "Destruction of Birds," was then presented by C. B. Cook, in which the protection of insectivorous and song birds was strongly urged.

After discussion on the above subject, the audience was enjoyably entertained by a recitation excellently rendered by Miss Harriet Hewson.

An essay entitled "Common Honesty" was then presented by Mrs. Alice Hume. The essayist brilliantly illustrated the forms of honesty in use, convincing the audience that to the "good farmer" something better than common honesty was becoming. After the discussion which followed this paper, the subject of "Helps for the Sick Room" was ably treated in a paper presented by Mrs. J. D. Towar, in which much valuable information and many good suggestions were offered.

This being the last on the program, the session was drawn to a close and all returned to their homes feeling that the meeting passed with Capital Grange had been one of the most successful in the history of the Ingham Co. Pomona Grange.

CARRIE M. HAVENS.

ED. VISITOR—Five months ago Eaton Co. Pomona Grange set apart five dollars to be used for the purchase of a banner to be contested for by the various Granges of the County, two at a time in Pomona sessions—the Grange first winning it having the honor of making it. A scale of points was agreed upon, consisting of literary and musical exercises. After all arrangements were complete Windsor Grange came to the front and challenged any Grange in the county. Eaton Rapids accepted the challenge, and after a month of work in training, the two entered the battle prepared to win if possible. After a long and ceaseless round, Eaton Rapids brought down its victim, and yet her face was to the foe, but not long did its glittering folds gleam from her mast head. Charlotte Grange was quietly camping on her trail; and scarcely had she flung it to the breeze, when Charlotte sent up a challenge, and promptly declared their mettle was up. The second contest, therefore, was held in Eaton Rapids Grange hall, Jan. 24, and a beautiful race it was. The best of good feeling prevailed, and both were determined to give a fair field but no favors. The battle here raged from noon till darkness hid them from each other's sight; and yet they declared they were not a quarter through, so the flag of truce was run up and an amnesty agreed upon. When the points of each were summed up it was found Charlotte had passed "under the wire," but had beaten her competitor only by "the throat latch." The Eaton Rapids "boy" took his defeat very pleasantly, while the Charlotte "girl" received the congratulations of the company with a pleasant and courteous spirit. The exercises were very fine on both sides, and would do credit to any class of citizens, though a large per cent of them was by the young members, and to honorably mention any would be an injustice to others. As a result of these two contests sixteen have asked for membership in Pomona Grange, and will receive the fifth degree in March; while there is certainly a splendid awakening of the Granges in our county. The next meeting is a joint session of Eaton, Ingham and Clinton counties, at Capital Grange hall, North Lansing, Feb. 27. O. J. C.

GRAND BLANC, Genesee Co., Jan. 24.—ED. VISITOR: It is some time since I saw anything in the VISITOR from Groveland Grange No. 443; but we are alive yet and in good working order—not as numerous as once, but what members we have are the best kind of timber and warrant to stand. When you think the Grange is all gone up in Michigan you better come out to Groveland and you will find old



## Ladies' Department.

## The First Snow.

Gay bloom the flowers in springtime set,  
And streaky apples linger yet;  
'Twas autumn but a week ago,  
Why, then, these winter flakes of snow?  
Summer's last rose they disarrayed,  
The while she dreamed in peace to fade.  
One swallow was inclined to stay;  
The white flakes frightened him away.

Winter's cold shock who first endure,  
Think him unkind and premature;  
Complain the summer was too brief,  
And moralize o'er each dead leaf.  
But as he grips with firmer hold  
We grow more careless of the cold,  
Joy in the sparkle of the snow,  
And nestle by his fireside glow.

Dismayed, we note the first gray hair,  
Soon others come—we cease to care;  
Then gray, outnumbering the brown,  
And soon white winter, settles down.  
And when from youth we've passed to age  
We've learned our lessons page by page,  
To take what comes for weal or woe,  
And never fret about the snow.

—St. James Gazette.

## Losing and Living.

Forever the sun is pouring his gold  
On a hundred worlds that beg and borrow;  
His warmth he squanders on summits cold,  
His wealth on the homes of want and sorrow;  
To withhold his largesse of precious light,  
Is to bury himself in eternal night.

To give  
Is to live.

The flower shines not for itself at all;  
Its joy is the joy it freely diffuses;  
Of beauty and balm it is prodigal,  
And it lives in the light it freely loses;  
No choice for the rose but glory or doom,  
To exhale or smother, to wither or bloom.

To deny  
Is to die.

The seas lend silvery rain to the land,  
The land its sapphire streams to the ocean;  
The heart sends blood to the brain of command,  
The brain to the heart its lightning motion;  
And ever and ever we yield our breath,  
Till the mirror is dry and images death.

To give  
Is to live.

He is dead whose hand is not opened wide  
To help the need of a human brother;  
He doubles the length of his life-long ride  
Who gives his fortunate place to another;  
And a thousand million lives are his  
Who carries the world in his sympathies.

To deny  
Is to die.

Paper read by Miss Mamie Blair, at Napoleon Farmers' Institute, Jan. 29, '91.

**GOOD FRIENDS**—This is a gathering in the interest of farmers, and our fathers and brothers are discussing the methods and results of their work, leaving the daughters and sisters and wives to talk of matters of interest to them. And what are they? Housekeeping! Indeed; but everybody knows that farmers' wives and daughters are the best and most practical housekeepers in the world—this honor having been won by the means of so much courage, in reducing the weekly basket of mending; perseverance, in gathering the butter when it wont come; long suffering, in scrubbing the kitchen floor; to say nothing of the unlimited supplies of the pantry, and duties as numberless as the stars. Instead of reviewing the regular routine of our days' work, then, let us look at some of the other matters in which we are interested. How do our lives differ from those of other women? We are called exceptionally busy. Very busy we surely are, but are we exceptions? Not just in our line, certainly, but every quick and eager soul is crowded every day.

Take a graduating class of a dozen girls, and who can look upon them without feeling pity as well as pride. While congratulations for their well deserved and hardly earned honors are on our lips, there is a subtle sympathy in our hearts, born of the lessons we have learned and which are before them. Standing there on a June day, with friends and flowers about them, they are as on the top of a high hill, from which point, looking upon the landscape of life, they can see only the hill tops of success, and feel sure that they, with their diploma, can fly from one point to another, never dreaming that ere the school bell rings again time will have forced them each into their separate paths in life, which will unmistakably lead them, as all are led, through the valleys of disappointment and struggle, as surely as they shall reach the heights.

If the path of one of these leads to a teacher's desk, and she be devoted to her work (as most girls are), there is herself to fit and drill, and then entering upon active work, the lessons to give, order to keep, examinations to prepare, and every thorough-going teacher must read regularly the school journals to keep

up with the times and methods; then the public expects and gets much valuable help from the school teacher. Indeed, many will be the demands upon her time. The same will it be, whether she is behind a counter measuring out goods to the customer, or in the office keeping the records of business; or in the shop sewing, as Hood has said, "with a double thread, a shroud as well as a shirt"; or perchance a housekeeper—each have their separate interests, but alike are very busy bodies. All life has its trials, temptations and toils, which test, endanger and weary us, but we believe it is one of the realities of life that it is the busy people, whether man or woman, who, if their work be honorable, are not only most respected, but feel most respect for themselves. Much as there is to work for, there are very few of us but that can find some time for moral and intellectual improvement. As a general rule those who have no opportunities despise small ones, and those who despise small opportunities never get large ones. The rush of time charges us to "set a high price on leisure moments."

If instead of reading the continued story in the weekly papers, we would follow out some of the reading of the Chautauqua circle, so widely known, learning historical facts concerning the different nations and people; learning the wonderful laws that govern the world and hold it in place; of the sun and moon, which shine out daily and nightly upon us, of which we know so little as compared to the vast amount that may be learned. What more intensely interesting than the principles of light and heat? We are told that if we could build up a solid column of ice from the earth to the sun, 2½ miles in diameter, spanning the inconceivable abyss of 93 millions of miles, and then if the sun should concentrate his power upon it, it would dissolve and melt, not in an hour or a minute, but in a single second—one swing of the pendulum and it would be water. Truly, there are many avenues, which if followed up, will make us almost new creatures in thought and help us to raise ourselves in the scale of creation.

Indeed, friends, let us not only have something to do, but something great enough to rouse the mind and noble enough to satisfy the heart, and then give our mind and heart, our thought and toil and affection to it. But why? do we ask, should we thus fill up each day with earnest striving. Because, "he most lives who thinks most, acts the noblest, feels the best;" remembering, too, there comes a time in life when we can not be doing much in body, and by collecting this knowledge, by gaining these stores for thought, we have a most valuable treasure for old age. The intellectual investments we have made will be permanent. More than this: this world is moving right along; there are wonderful opportunities for some one always, and that one is he or she who has prepared himself or herself for it. At the present day the attainment of eminent positions in any profession is the result of hard, unwearied labor of mind or body, or both. There are thousands of desirable places waiting to be filled. If you push on you may win one. If you dally you will be crowded out of the way, for this age of the world is moving and waits for no one. The path of success in business, as everything else, is invariably the path of common sense.

No man has a right to expect a good future unless he goes to work and deserves it. Luck or accident does very little toward the production of the great results of life, though sometimes what is called a "happy hit" may be made by a bold venture. The highway of steady industry and application is the only safe road to travel. It is not accident that helps the average man in the world, but purpose and persistent industry. These make a man sharp to discern opportunities and turn them to account.

Who are the successful men? They are those who, when boys, were compelled to work, either

to help themselves or their parents, and who, when a little older, were under the necessity of doing more than their legitimate share of labor. We are told upon good authority that taking a half dozen of our large cities together, of all the thorough, staunch business men, who represent the best firms in them, 80 per cent were farmers' boys—for the reason, 'tis fair to conclude, that on the farms are cultivated self-reliance, industry and perseverance, which qualities will make their way anywhere. Dr. Talmadge writes (and who can deny it) "that for health and substantial wealth, for rare opportunity for self-improvement, for long life and real independence, farming is the best business in the world."

## Motherhood.

The loveliest sight that a woman's eye opens upon in this world is her first born child, and the holiest sight upon which the eyes of God settle in Almighty sanction and perfect blessing is the love which soon kindles between the mother and her infant, mute and speechless on the one side, with no language but tears and kisses and looks. Beautiful is the philosophy which arises out of that reflection or passion connected with the transition that has produced it. First comes the whole mighty drama of love, purified ever more and more, how often from grosser feelings, yet of necessity through its very elements oscillating between the finite of the infinite; the haughtiness of womanly pride, so dignified, yet not always free from the near contagion of error, the romance so ennobling, yet not always entirely reasonable; the tender dawn of opening sentiments pointing to an idea in all this which it neither can reach nor long sustain. Think of the great storm of agitation and fear and hope through which in her earliest days of womanhood every woman must naturally pass—fulfilling the law of her Creator, yet a law which rests upon her mixed constitution; animal, though indefinitely ascending to what is non-animal; as a daughter of man frail and imperfect, yet also as a daughter of God, standing erect, with eyes to the heavens. Next, when the great vernal passover of sexual tenderness and romance has filled its purpose, we see rising as a phoenix from this great mystery of ennobled instincts another mystery much more profound, more affecting, more divine—not so much a rapture as a blissful repose of a Sabbath which swallows up the more perishing story of the first, forcing the vast heart of female nature through stages of ascent, forcing it to pursue the transmigrations of the Psyche from the aurelic conditions so glowing in its color, into the winged creatures which mixes with the mystery of the dawn and ascends to the altar of the infinite heavens; rising by a ladder of light from that sympathy which God surveys with approbation, and even more so, as He beholds it self-purifying under His Christianity to that sympathy which needs no purification, but it is the holiest of things on this earth and that in which God most reveals himself through the nature of humanity.

Well is it for the glorification of human nature that through these changes the vast majority of women must forever pass; well also that by placing its sublime germs near to female youth God thus turns away by anticipation the divinest disciplines from the rapacious absorption of the grave. Time is found, how often! for those who are early summoned into rendering back their glorious privilege who have yet tasted in its first fruits the paradise of maternal love. And pertaining also to this part of the subject I will tell you a result of my own observations of no slight importance to women.

It is this. Nineteen times out of twenty I have remarked that the true paradise of a female life, in all ranks not too elevated for constant intercourse with the children, is by no means the years of courtship, nor the earliest period of marriage, but that sequestered chamber of her experience in which a mother is left alone through the day with ser-

vants, perhaps in a distant part of the house, and (God be thanked) chiefly where there are no servants at all; she is attended by one sole companion, her little first-born angel, as yet clinging to her robe, imperfectly able to walk, still more imperfect in its prattling and innocent thoughts, clinging to her, hunting her wherever she goes as her shadow, catching from her eye the total inspiration of its little palpitating heart, and sending to hers a thrill of secret pleasure so often as its little fingers fasten on her own.

Left alone from morning to night with this one companion, or even with three still wearing the grace of infancy, buds of various stages upon the self-same tree, a woman, if she has the great blessing of approaching such a luxury of paradise, is moving—too often not aware that she is moving—through the divinest section of her life. As evening sets in the husband, through all the walks of life, from the highest professional down to that of common labor, returns home to bring her modes of conversation by such thoughts and interests as are more consonant with his more extensive capacities of intellect. By this time her child (or her children) will be reposing in the little couch, and in the morning, only as the sun ascends in power, she sees before her a long, long day of perfect pleasure in this society which evening will bring to her, but which is interwoven with every fibre of her sensibilities. This condition of noiseless, quiet love is that above all which God blesses and smiles upon.—*De Quincy, in London Review.*

## Manners and Morals.

What is the difference between good manners and good morals? Will good manners make a man, or must he be possessed of good morals also? If good manners be genuine, they are good morals, for they are founded on the laws of justice and kindness. But there is so much base coin in circulation in the sphere of manners, and there are so many pretensions to goodness therein that cannot be admitted. There is not a thing so offensive as a false heart refusing, in a polite manner, to do a simple and easy action of kindness. It reminds us of one lady abusing another in the most ceremonious style, courtesying with great dignity, but at the same time with a contemptuous sneer upon the lips and a most reverential "madame" upon the tongue. Most ladies would prefer a corporeal onset. But they know one another's feelings, and that this mock civility is the most galling and effectual vengeance they can take. The good manners of many people are somewhat of this sort; heartlessness, clothing itself in the garb of kindness, and pretending to feel deeply for you, when it wishes you to Coventry or Jericho. Now, this we call bad manners, and yet men who can play this part well, and "bow you out," as they say at court, are supposed to be very accomplished, finished gentlemen. After all, it comes to this, that good morals are good manners. You will find no better standard for manners than this. But still there are degrees of goodness; there is a more or less graceful manner of showing it, and the more graceful is better than the less graceful. The best manners, therefore, are the more graceful good morals. We cannot admit any falsehood or heartlessness into the idea of good manners. These invariably defile them, however pure they may seem; invariably deform them, how beautiful soever, how graceful soever the aid which they employ, or the dress they put on.—*Er.*

## The New Year is Upon Us.

We are glad to seal down the stained and blotted pages and turn to the clean, unsullied whiteness of the new part of life's volume.

The fact that the new year finds us differently circumstanced from last year should neither sadden nor perplex us. We have grown through that period and reached the present stage of existence, and we must use this for our development, lest a year

hence even more useless regrets visit us.

Each day we greet new faces, form new acquaintanceships and lose old friends. If the circumstance is within our control, if we may change the facts, then let us resolve to do so and ensure ourselves if we fail in our resolve, but let us accept the inevitable graciously and thereby grow wise.

Life is constantly changing, and while it carries from us much that we long to keep and grieve to miss, it brings us other treasures, that must prove priceless, if we would heed them, and it is our duty to find in our present life that which is worthy to be held blissful and dear, and to live no longer loveless, because our love is gone. Every community, each little neighborhood, has those worth knowing—those whom we may help to grow and who can assist our growth. This truth must be kept sight of wherever we are placed. Keep fast hold of all that we have proved dear and sweet and reach ever out for the dear and sweet that comes to us fresh and new, and whenever we pause let it be to resolve most emphatically to be true—true to ourselves, our surroundings, our highest conception of God.

The New Year will be happy, each year will be happy, from whatever day we date it, when it is entered upon and followed with the sincere spirit of truth. Each life must decide upon its highest conception of truth, and then strive for its development. If any pain or anguish may be averted from others or ourselves, let us endeavor with all our might to do so, but if possible let us consider it heroically and make all circumstances tend as much as possible to the truest growth.—*Er.*

## Sewing on Buttons.

"When I get a bright idea I always want to pass it along," said a lady, as she sat watching a young girl sewing. "Do your buttons ever come off, Lena?"

"Ever? Why, I shed buttons at every step."

"Make use of these two hints when you are sewing them on, then, and see if they make any difference. First, put the thread through, so the knot will be on the right side. Then lay a large pin across the button, so that all the threads go over the pin. After the holes are filled with thread, draw out the pin and wind the thread round and round beneath the button. That makes a compact stem to sustain the possible pulling and wear of the buttonhole. My buttons never come off, and yours will not if you heed these hints."—*Youth's Companion.*

## The Art of Being Entertained.

Let everything dark melt away before a sunny nature. If you go to a home for a sunny visit, be merry, be easy of manner, ready to join in what has been prepared for you. Learn the great art of adapting yourself to your surroundings. Don't forever expect your friends to accompany you or show you around. Go off by yourself, even though you have no special errand. Show your hostess that you do not expect her or her family to continually wait upon you. Enter into the family circle, be "one of them" in spirit, so that, when after a hearty hand-shake at the station, it may be said of you: "What a pleasure she has been! How easy to entertain!"—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

Purity is a sixth sense, opening to us what the material senses can never discern, the vision of God. The most beautiful things open not to the eye, but to the soul fitted to understand them. "Blessed are the pure in heart," for they see what the eye of no Turner, Titian, or Reynolds can detect. To see God is a higher gift than to discern the beauties his hand has diffused through nature. To a man of materialistic tastes a poet painter said: "When the sun rises, you see something like a golden guinea coming out of the sea; I see, and hear likewise, something like an innumerable company of angels praising God.

Do you want the BUYERS GUIDE?

Most people say that it is worth \$ to them as a Reference Book, as it enables them to make a comparative estimate of the Value of everything they buy.

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Says: "German Horse and Cow Powder saves many times its cost in keeping all kinds of farm stock in good health. I have used it for years on my farm, buying a barrel at a time."

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To all who pay for the same in advance, THE TRUE NORTHERNER and GRANGE VISITOR will be furnished for one year at one dollar and fifty cents.

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Forming A Literary Taste.

When I see young girls and boys eagerly devouring the most vicious literature, I cannot but wonder what their mothers were doing at the twilight time and the bed time story hour when the children were little ones.

I know one bright, brown-eyed boy of four years who goes to sleep to the stirring strains of Barbara Frietchie, read to him by a loving and cultured mother. The little fellow can deliver the entire poem perfectly, not in the wooden and parrot-like fashion of one taught to repeat mechanically a string of words monotonously, but with wonderful fire and expression, as one who assimilates that which is congenial and comprehensible.

Another bright little chap had for his twilight summer cuddle, "The Children's Hour" and "The Village Blacksmith" read to him by a literary cousin, into whose care he often fell. In this way, he unconsciously learned poems from standard authors, judiciously selected to suit his understanding.

Contest between a Spider and a Beetle.

An article in a recent number of the Scientific American, describing a "Remarkable Engineering Feat of a Spider," reminds me of a no less remarkable exploit of a tiny spider, which I witnessed, in which the insect's ingenuity in improvising a hoisting tackle gave him the victory.

Potato beetles were very numerous last summer, and were often seen crawling about on fences and buildings. One of these, climbing up on the inside of a wood shed, came in contact with a spider's web stretched across the corner of the building. The watchful spider came out at once and endeavored to entangle him.

alone, woke up, and tried to move off. Lifting one foot at a time, he succeeded in breaking the cords which bound each one. Then tugging forward with his shoulders, like an ox drawing a heavy load, he had entirely freed himself when the little spider again advanced to the attack, winding his threads with astonishing rapidity.

The beetle now seemed to realize that the "possum" act was not the best thing for that particular emergency, and struggled harder than ever to get away. The spider, also, seemed to understand that something different would have to be done or he would lose his prize, for the threads were snapping as fast as he could wind them.

As this work proceeded, the beetle soon found himself obliged to cease his struggles and use all his strength in holding on. The spider again retiring, "Old Line Back" tried once more to move off, but at the first step he was jerked entirely off his feet by the elasticity of the threads, and left dangling in the air.

A Little Sarcastic.

Whatever the effect of the Indian outbreak upon the country at large, it will be hailed with joy by the dime novel and the Ananias story paper. Periodicals that have long since delighted the youthful eye with pictures of tall and lovely maidens fleeing from the villains who were determined to marry them and settle a fortune upon their defenseless heads whether or no, will now be filled with long-legged gentlemen in Mexican pants and cart-wheel hats, wildly pursuing elegant savages whose appearance will indicate that once upon a time they actually washed themselves.

How to Unite Lead Pipe.

What may be found a convenient method of uniting the ends of pipe, the American Engineer thus explains: Whatever the size of the pipe may be, procure a block of hard wood, say four or five inches long, and four inches in diameter, bore a hole straight through the center, so nearly the size of the pipe that the block can be driven on the end of the pipe with a light hammer.

the joint will be water-tight; and if the ends of the pipe are dressed off true and square the joint will be so strong that it will sustain the pressure of a head or column of water one hundred feet high. Iron pipe may be united in the same manner. Should the joint leak a trifle, let shingle nails be driven into the wood around the pipe so as to press the timber firmly all around the pipe.—Scientific American.

A New Asbestos Mine.

The wonderful asbestos mine found near Hamilton has been uncovered in a ledge for a distance of 75 feet, and at the cropping, or so far as the discoverers have been able to go in this brief time, says the Olympia Tribune, the ledge proved to be eight feet in width. The rock taken from the ledge after the surface crusting was removed is pure asbestos ore, as white as chalk and fine as silk, the feathery fibers being as long as the pieces of rock from which they are pulled.

In a report made, Oct. 25th, 1890, by Mr. Merritt, United States consul at Chemnitz, Saxony, he says:

"Sixteen millions of dollars is the sum of money in round figures which the United States sent to Germany to pay for beet sugar during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890. Every pound of the sugar paid for by the 16,000,000 above mentioned was made from sugar beets grown in Prussia, in a latitude exactly on a line with the frozen regions of Labrador. There are within the United States, lying between the thirty-eighth and forty-second degrees of latitude a great many millions of acres of land which are as thoroughly adapted to the culture of the sugar beet as any land on earth.

There you have this sugar beet business in a nutshell. With twenty times as much land in this country adapted to the growth of sugar beets as there is in Prussia—yes, with fifty times as much land—why should we send \$16,000,000 in one year to Prussia to pay for beet sugar? Let me vary the question. Why should we not raise in this country \$16,000,000 worth of beet sugar and so supply our own people with the sugar they consume? Farmers of the United States, you can raise the sugar beets in sufficient quantities to meet this demand! Men of means will join you in erecting mills for the manufacture of this article, in any quantities for the making of which you will produce the beets. How quickly the live, energetic, bright farmers of the great west will solve this question when once given a fair chance. The new tariff law will aid in this work.

Obituaries.

REYNOLDS.

Whereas, In view of the loss we have sustained in the death of our sister and friend, Clara E. Reynolds, and by the still heavier loss sustained by those nearest and dearest to her, therefore be it

Resolved, That by the death of our sister we have lost a faithful and worthy member of our Grange, one whose utmost endeavor was to promote the interest and welfare of our Order.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the husband, children and friends of the deceased, and commend them for consolation to Him who orders all things for the best, and whose chastisements are meant in mercy.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the GRANGE VISITOR, and a copy be presented to the family; also preserved in the records of our Order, and that our charter be draped in mourning for 30 days.

ALICE W. D. CARPENTER, ROBERT CARPENTER, MRS. A. L. KIMBLE, Com.

BAKER.

Died, at her home in Hamilton, Dec. 6, 1890, Olive, wife of John Baker, aged 62 years. Sister Baker was a charter member of Keeler Grange No. 159, a true patron, kind friend, good neighbor.

Though we miss her, and extend our heartfelt sympathies to her husband and family, we will not mourn, for she has only left us for a better home.

"God gives us ministers of love Which we regard not being near; Death takes them from us, then we feel That angels have been with us here."

JULIA HILL, SUSAN SYKES, NETTIE ROSEVELT.

BURNS.

Died, at his home in Danby, Ionia County, Mich., Dec. 16th 1890, our worthy brother Peter Burns.

Whereas, The death messenger has entered our midst and removed our worthy brother.

Resolved, That our Grange has lost an earnest member and that we as brothers and sisters extend our sympathy to the bereaved wife and children.

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that a copy be sent to the family, and also spread on the Grange record.

LYMAN J. CLARK, THOS. PRYER, LUCINA SMITH.

CONNER.

The members of Bee Hive Grange No. 158, are resolved to extend their warmest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Emma Conner who died Dec. 23th 1890, at the age of 27 years. She was an active member in the Grange and her death is regretted by all. Her illness was of long duration and death to her was a welcome messenger, bringing sweet release from suffering. Let us wear the badge of mourning, drape our charter for 60 days and record this memorial in the minutes.

MRS. S. M. RANDALL, MRS. B. TEACHOUT, MRS. S. C. BARKER.

WRIGHT.

Resolutions of respect to the memory of Homer W. Wright. Whereas, The sable winged messenger death, has again entered our midst and taken from our fraternal circle our beloved brother Homer W. Wright who died suddenly while at school near his home on Thursday, Dec. 11th, 1890. Aged 17 years 3 months and 24 days.

Whereas, We recognized in him a youth of bright intellect, and one who promised fair to become one of our most enthusiastic Patrons and honorable citizens.

Therefore, Resolved by Coldwater Grange No. 137. That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family, feeling as we do that what is their loss, in a family way is ours fraternally; And be it further.

Resolved, that our charter be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that a copy be spread

upon the records of the Grange, also a copy sent to the bereaved family, and a copy sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication. W. S. MOWRY.

COLEMAN.

Groveland, Grange, No. 443, has been called to mourn the death of a highly esteemed Sister, Mrs. Charlotte Coleman, who died at her home in Groveland, January 9th 1891, in the 57th year of her age. She leaves a husband, a son and a daughter, who will deeply feel the loss of a dear wife and mother. Sister Coleman was a charter member of Groveland Grange, and her death has caused great sadness among us. At the last meeting of our Grange the following resolutions were adopted.

Whereas, It has pleased the rules of the universe to remove from among us our sister, Charlotte Coleman. Therefore, in view of the loss we have sustained and the still heavier loss occasioned to her respective relatives, be it

Resolved, That the members of this Grange here desire to express their sense of bereavement and grief at the loss of one of their most efficient and faithful members.

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize with the relatives and friends of our late sister, and that we respectfully commend them for consolation to that Divine Power, which though sometimes inscrutable in his dispensations, yet "doeth all things well" feeling sure that to them, as to us, there is comfort in the knowledge that the deceased was a sincere and true Christian.

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning 60 days, and a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family and to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication.

ELMER HOSNER, LOUISA QUICK, ALTHEA SWIFT.

Pomona Grange.

Van Buren County Pomona Grange No. 13, P. of H., will hold its next meeting at Paw Paw Grange Hall, commencing at 10 A. M. on Wednesday, Feb. 18th, and continuing to Thursday noon, the 19th, with a good program. Fourth degree members are invited. There will be a 5th degree session Wednesday evening, E. L. WARNER, Sec'y.

If you have found out some new method that proves valuable, to interest the members of your Grange, tell others through the VISITOR, that they may copy your plans and profit by your success. If you have adopted a new system of rotation or have made a success in some new departure in farming, write it out for publication in the VISITOR. If you haven't yet asked your neighbor why he didn't take the VISITOR and haven't said to him how well you were pleased with it, you ought to while you have the time and he has the half dollar.

The New Tomato!

From Canada ought to be extra early, and as such it is sent out. The reports of the experimental stations speak highly of it, and numbers testify to its earliness, productiveness, large size, roundness, rich color and freedom from rot. Per package, 15 cts.; five for 60 cts. You will find it only in my seed catalogue, which will be sent free to anybody. J. J. H. GREGORY & SON, Marblehead, Mass.

SORGHUM

A LITTLE book that every farmer ought to have is the "Sorghum Hand Book" which may be had free, by addressing The Blymyer Iron Works Co., of Cincinnati, O. Sorghum is a very valuable crop for syrup-making, feed, and fodder, and this pamphlet gives full information about the different species, best modes of cultivation, etc. Send and get it and read it.

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Is not always at a large importing establishment. Their horses are usually crowded and fattened, like steers for the shambles, and are overgrown and washy, liable on this account, or the effects of shipment, or change of climate, to die, or fail as breeders, for a time, least, and without being as good, or any better bred, cost more than twice as much as home bred stock.

I have two stallions, bred from noted stock on both sides, imported by Dunham, and recorded in the Percheron Stud Book, that have never been forced or fattened; that have never been kept tied, but have had access to large paddocks night and day, summer and winter; that never were sick a moment or took a drop of medicine; that I would like to sell to make room for younger ones coming on. They are large, stylish, easy movers and fast trotters, and have good feet and heavy bones. Quality considered, will price them very low for cash or good paper. DON'T BUY TILL YOU SEE THEM.

Grade Stallions, Mares and heavy Geldings for sale. A. W. HAYDON, DECATUR, MICH.

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Is the sort now sent out for the first time, the Perfection. The snowball, gilt-edged and Extra Early Erfurt are all excellent sorts, but an extensive market gardener, who has raised these and all other sorts, believes that within three years the most enterprising market gardeners will have dropped these and be raising Perfection. Trial Package, 25 cts.; per oz., \$1. Seed catalogue FREE to every one. JAMES J. H. GREGORY & SON, Marblehead, Mass.

'Planet Jr.' Improved Farm and Garden Tools for 1891. Includes an illustration of a tool and text describing various tools like the 'Planet Jr.' and 'Planet' tools.

BUY WALL PAPERS BY MAIL.

SAVE HALF OR MORE AS WE SELL AT FACTORY PRICES AND SELECT FROM BEST FACTORIES ONLY. Pretty Patterns with Match Borders, 3 to 5c. per roll. Beautiful gilt, with Match Borders, 5 to 8c. per roll. 6 to 18-in. Gilt Borders to Match Papers, 2 to 3c. per yd. 4 to 6-in. Borders, without Gilt, to Match Papers, 1c. per yd. Send 6c. in Stamps, for 100 Samples. Name this Paper. Agents Wanted: F. H. CADY, 205 High St., Providence, R. I.

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A few pairs of CHOICE BRONZE TURKEYS for sale at reasonable prices. Gobblers will weigh from 30 to 40 lbs at maturity, and hens proportionately less. Will sell or order direct. H. C. HOLT, Cascade, Mich.



"Hello! Tom. Glad to see you, old fellow! It's almost ten years since we were married. Sit down; let's have an experience meeting. How's the wife?"

"Oh! she's so-so, same as usual, - always wanting something I can't afford."

"Well, we all want something more than we've got. Don't you?"

"Yes; but I guess 'want' will be my master. I started to keep down expenses; and now Lil says I'm 'mean,' and she's tired of saving and never having anything to show for it. I saw your wife down-swept, and she looked so happy as a queen!"

"I think she is; and we are economical, too. - have to be. My wife can make a little go further than anyone I ever knew, yet she's always surprising me with some dainty contrivance that adds to the comfort and beauty of our little home, and she's always 'merry as a lark.' When I ask how she manages it, she always laughs and says: 'Oh! that's my secret.' But I think I've discovered her 'secret.' When we married, we both knew we should have to be very careful, but she made one condition; she would have her Magazine. And she was right! I wouldn't do without it myself for double the subscription price. We read it together, from the tie-back to the last word of the stories keep our hearts young; the synopsis of important events and scientific matters keeps me posted so that I can talk understandingly of what is going on; my wife is always trying some new idea from the household department; she makes all her dresses and those for the children, and she gets all her patterns for nothing, with the Magazine; and we saved Joe when he was so sick with the croup, by doing just as directed in the Sanitarian Department. But I can't tell you half!"

"What wonderful Magazine is it?"

"Demorest's Family Magazine, and..."

"What! Why that's what Lil wanted so bad, and I told her it was an extravagance."

"Well, my friend, that's where you made a grand mistake, and one you'd better rectify as soon as you can. I'll take your 'sub,' right here, on my wife's account; she's bound to have a china tea-set in time for our tin wedding next month. My gold watch was the premium I got for getting up a club. Here's a copy, with the new Premium List for clubs, - the biggest thing out! If you don't see in it what you want, you've only to write to the publisher and tell him what you want, whether it is a tack hammer or a new carriage, and he will make special terms for you, either for a club, or for part-cash. Better subscribe right off and surprise Mrs. Tom. Only \$2.00 a year - will save fifty times that in six months. Or send 10 cents direct to the publisher, W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th Street, New York, for a specimen copy containing the Premium List."

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Walls can be decorated with Alabastine in any degree of elaboration, from plain tinting, plain tinting with stencil ornamentations, to the most elaborate fresco, and decorating in relief.

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Send for article taken from the report of the Michigan State Board of Health, entitled "Sanitary Walls and Ceilings," condemning wall paper and showing the evil results following its use.

We will also send free, on application, a set of colored designs showing how walls and ceilings may be decorated with Alabastine and the stencils we manufacture.

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