

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.

Cost of Growing Crops.

There seems to be a growing desire among farmers to learn what it costs to raise crops. Even the occasional reader of the agricultural press during the past two or three years, could not fail to note this. It seems to be confined to no particular locality, yet perhaps farmers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan have shown more interest in the subject than their brethren elsewhere. The reports that find their way into the papers give the cost on single farms and in single years only, yet they are none the less valuable. While some of these reports show plainly that they are only estimates prepared with more or less care, others are taken from carefully kept records or accounts, and are therefore of much greater value.

One of the latest and in many respects the best reports on this subject is the "Madison Grange Crop report" published in the VISITOR of April 15. This report starts out with a twenty-two acre field of oats, grown on clay land, fifteen acres sod fall plowed and seven acres corn stubble. This crop cost \$229.54 or an average of \$10.43 per acre.

The field of corn, ten acres, "grown on a field which had been in pasture twelve years," was produced at a cost of \$140, or \$14 per acre. The even number of dollars suggest that this statement is based upon estimates, at least in part, rather than upon an exact account, but it is doubtless substantially accurate.

The sixty-five acres of wheat was produced at a cost of \$784.35, an average of \$12.07 per acre, but forty-five acres of this followed beans and corn, and the field was fitted without plowing, which lessened the cost.

I wish to note particularly the cost per cent. of producing these three crops—\$10.43 for oats, \$14 for corn and \$12.07 for wheat, and the close agreement of these figures with the cost in the four southern tiers of counties of this state, as shown in the Farm Statistics of 1889-90, and in a circular recently issued by the Secretary of State on the cost and value of the crops of 1889.

The Secretary began an investigation in 1884 to determine the cost of producing crops, which was continued for five successive years. The whole number of returns received by the Secretary from the southern counties in the five years was 2,517. Each return gave the cost to the correspondent of producing his crop. Based upon these five annual returns of cost per acre, the Secretary computes the cost of the 1889 oats, corn and wheat crops in each county in the southern section, foots the result and finds that for the entire section, the average cost of the oat crop was \$11.52 per acre; of the corn crop \$14.20 per acre and of the wheat crop \$12.73 per acre. These amounts are slightly greater than those given us by

Madison Grange. For oats the cost is one dollar and nine cents more, for corn twenty cents more and for wheat sixty-six cents more.

The cost as figured by the Secretary includes cost of hauling out barn yard manure, and taxes, insurance and repairs. The Madison figures do not include cost of hauling out manure and probably not taxes, insurance or repairs.

It is probable that further investigation into the cost of producing these crops would not give average results materially different from these already obtained, and so long as the wages of labor remain as high as at present, it seems pretty safe to assume that the average cost of producing an acre of oats in Southern Michigan is eleven dollars, of corn fourteen dollars, and of wheat thirteen dollars.

LANSING May 8, 1891.

ROBERT L. HEWITT.

Agricultural Production in the United States.

Hon. J. R. Dodge, Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, will soon issue in his April report an essay on "Permanency of Agricultural Production," to meet the views of some that the United States is approaching its limit of capacity for population. From advance sheets we quote as follows:

Some modern disciples of Malthus are wrestling with the limitation of production in this country. Some citizens of an adjoining country, of large superficial area in great proportion unoccupied, have sought to impress upon the popular mind, through our press, the idea of near approach of a "pressure of population upon subsistence," which has been in other countries the bugbear of an age of primitive and superficial agricultural cultivation. A corollary of this idea would be the necessity of enlarging our productive area by some form of dependence upon neighboring agricultural resources. It is natural that self-interest, coupled with a partial acquaintance of the natural resources of this country, should lead out-siders to take this view; but there is no such excuse for depreciation of the capabilities of rural production in the United States by citizens of this country.

Europe has four times as many people as the United States, and very few of the countries represented by this eastern continent fail to produce nearly or quite enough for their own subsistence. All Eastern Europe has an agricultural surplus, and Italy's exports equals her imports. Even the Netherlands, with only 2½ acres to each inhabitant, requires only a few million of dollars' worth of agricultural imports in excess of agricultural exports. France requires from foreign sources only about seven per cent. of her consumption for a population nine times as dense as ours. Insular and factory-studded Great Britain feeds one half of her people from her soil, through a labor of one-eighth of her population, and her game preserves and pleasure grounds are enough to feed the other half if utilized for agricultural production.

It would seem to be an absurdity to claim a necessity of four times as much area to feed one person in this country as it requires in Europe, with whatever allowance may be necessary for

more liberal dietary. The contention becomes the more unreasonable in view of the fact that half of the area of Europe could easily double its production under more general and higher cultivation.

Mr. Dodge then introduces arguments and statistics to prove first, that the surplus production is not unlimited; second, that the wheat surplus is not immediately exhaustible; third, that wheat production is not declining in Europe; fourth, that the Indian wheat scare is nearly over; fifth, that the wheat production of the world is not declining; sixth, that there is much danger in false statistics and irrelevant deduction. He concludes his paper as follows:

This country has not reached the limit of agricultural production. It has not even approached it. One-third of its area is either too dry or too wet for present cultivation, awaiting irrigation or drainage. Of the other two-thirds there is much not included in farms; its farm area is not all utilized, and the cultivated area may become far more productive.

Farm labor is not sufficiently effective; its distribution could be more harmonious and profitable. Prices of cereals have sometimes been reduced by oversupply. Cotton with a product of 22,000,000 bales in three years, a quantity greater than the production of six years prior to 1860, begins to decline in price. At the same time there is a failure to produce the sugar required, though there is cane land enough for an ample supply, and beet sugar lands *ad libitum*, without mentioning the possibilities of sorghum. There might be tens of millions of dollars annually coined from various fibers, large extension of fruit-growing, and introduction of many economic plants to be made the basis of new industries. The material now produced for food consumption might be put in more attractive form for market, and a large contribution levied upon the gastronomic and aesthetic tastes of consumers.

It is not true that the wheat of the world is declining. It is not difficult to prove the existence of 2,300,000,000 bushels as an average, and there is no prospect of a decrease. Annual fluctuations, from climatic causes, will produce variation in price, which the distribution of harvests of different climates through the year and increase of international transportation facilities will help to equalize. The United States will continue to produce a surplus for export, until the wheat culture of the plains shall have given place to more varied and profitable culture, and increasing numbers of non-agricultural population shall require for bread the entire crop.

It is proper to say that the tendency is toward a better distribution of crops, and to higher prices and greater profits. The proportion of agricultural labor will decrease, non-agricultural will increase, agricultural production will be more varied, rural intelligence and skill will advance, and the farmer be in better position to demand and secure an equitable share of the net proceeds of national industries. —Pacific Rural Press.

Taxation and Education.

ED. VISITOR:

The subject of taxation of the people for the purpose of conferring higher education upon

our children having been of late, considerably discuss in your paper. I thought I would present a few thoughts upon the subject for the consideration of your readers.

I can present my ideas upon the subject more tersely by paying no attention to the arguments pro and con which have appeared in your paper and simply presenting my own thoughts in my own way.

I shall base my arguments upon the following premises or axioms as I think them to be.

1. The laws of nature, the common laws and the teachings of the Bible write in declaring it to be the parents duty to feed, cloth, shelter, educate and control his children.

2. If it be the parents duty and privilege to do these things, it cannot also be the duty of the State, Township or school district to do the same thing.

3. It can only become the duty of the State or community to do these things for children in case of failure, or great danger of failure; on the part of the parents to thus provide for their offspring.

4. It is not just to tax the community to do that which the parent can, would and ought to do for his children.

To make an elaborate argument upon each of the above propositions would take too much of your space. I shall make but little argument in their support now trusting to your permission to support any or all of them in your columns if they are attacked. Kent's Com. Vol 11, p. 4, Sec. 29, Says: "During the minority of the child, the parent is absolutely bound to provide reasonably for his maintenance and education; and may be sued for necessities furnished and schooling given to a child under just and reasonable circumstances."

Dr. Wayland in Moral Philosophy writes: "The right of the parent is to command; the duty of the child is to obey, the relation is established by our Creator. The duty of the parent is to educate his children in such manner as he believe will be most for their future happiness both temporal and eternal. * * * With his duty in this respect no one has a right to interfere. * * *

While he exercises his parental duties within their prescribed limits he is, by the law of God, exempt from interference both from individuals and from society."

Laws may be made to interfere with the parents natural right and duty to educate and provide for his child; yet, despite it all, the responsibility for the education and care of his child falls on him and on no one else.

The rights guaranteed him in our Declaration of Independence to "the pursuit of happiness" extends to that of his children as well; in every thing conducive to their happiness in this world, as in the next, if there be a future life, therefore it includes their religious teachings. "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is just." Honor thy father and thy mother." "Children obey your parents in all things for this is well-pleasing to the Lord—Col. 3-20.

Herbert Spencer says in Social Statistics. The reasoning which is held to establish the right to intellectual food, will equally well establish the right to material food; nay will do more, will prove that children should be altogether

cared for by the government. For if the benefit, importance and necessity of education be assigned as a sufficient reason why the government should educate, then may the benefit, importance or necessity of food, clothing, shelter and warmth, be assigned as a sufficient reason why the government should administer them also."

But one good reason can be assigned why a Republican Government should educate its children and that is the importance, yea necessity of making them intelligent voters, and citizens.

This necessity should not call for governmental interference until the parent seemed likely to fail to furnish such education to his child; nor could the duty of the government require the education of the child further than is necessary to make of him an intelligent voter viz: Only in the elementary branches, leaving it to himself and friends to furnish means for a higher education if desired.

Herbert Spencer says ibid "Inasmuch as the taking away by government of more of a means of property than is needful for maintaining his rights, is an infringement and therefore a reversal of the government's function toward him—and inasmuch as the taking away of his property to educate his own or other people's children is not needful for the maintenance of his rights—the taking away of his property is wrong.

To claim that a collegiate education is necessary to make an intelligent voter would be to admit that but a very small fraction of our voters are intelligent ones. It is not clear that a collegiate or professional education is equivalent to a capital with which to start in life and is it just to tax the people to furnish this capital to graduates. Fully one-third of all our taxes are for school purposes.

Though this kind of taxation has existed so long and been so much praised that it is considered an act of flagrant heresy to speak or write against it; yet it may not be amiss to remind my readers that many no older men can remember when the parent paid for the education of his child and looked after him to see that he was getting value received, by the industry and progress made in his education.

Not unfrequently we come across some young man who has received a liberal education in high school or college and has been engaged for some time in vainly looking for some employment which he thinks befitting his accomplishment. Such cases will cause us to query whether education is after all the great blessing which we have always been taught to consider it. True we hear now and then of some worthy scholar and graduate who has attained great honor and celebrity, but for each one of these there are many like the case first mentioned, who are never scarcely heard of outside their own little circle. But it is not our purpose to decry education or deny its usefulness in general; but rather to inquire into the justice of making the public educate a young man whose parents are both able and willing to educate him without public aid.

G. W. TOPPING,
DeWitt, Mich., May 5th, 1891.

A fact that all men with gray and many shaded whiskers should know, that Buckingham's Dye always colors an even brown or black.

When the Green Gits Back.

In spring, when the green gits back in the trees,
And the sun comes back and stays,
And your boots pull on with a good tight squeeze,
And you think of yer barefoot days;
When you ort to work and you want to not,
And you and yer wife agrees
It's time to spade up the garden lot—
When the green gits back in the trees—
Well, work is the last of my ideas
When the green, you know, gits back in the trees!
When the green gits back in the trees, and bees
Is a buzzin' aroun' again,
In that kind of lazy go-as-you-please
Old gait they bum roun' in.
When the ground's all bald where the hay-rick
stood,
And the crick's riz, and the breeze
Coaxes the bloom in the old dogwood,
And the green gits back in the trees;
I like, as I say, such scenes as these,
The time when the green gits back in the trees!
When the whole tail feathers o' winter time
Is all pulled out and gone,
And the sap it thaws and begins to climb,
And the sweat it starts out on
A feller's forrid, a gittin' down
At the old spring on his knees—
I kind o' like jes' a loaferin' roun'
When the green gits back in the trees—
Jes' a potterin' roun' as I—durn—please—
When the green, you know, gits back in the trees!
—J. Whitcomb Riley.

A Study of Fruit Buds—Some Philosophy of Pruning.

A bearing fruit tree, in healthy condition, carries on three lines of product simultaneously: It makes new wood, on which a fresh recruit of fruit buds will be developed within two or more years following; it builds and furnishes fruit buds in part or completely, according to its ability, on prior new wood; it expands flowers and matures fruit from older fruit buds, prepared to yield this final product. But this last production is very exhaustive—the flowering is a heavy drain, and the production of seed is especially so, in the case of all sorts of plants. Trees that yield their fruit early in the summer, as the cherry, for example, have time left in the same season in which to devote their means to preparing fruit buds for the next year's yield, and they are naturally annual bearers. But late maturing fruits, as winter apples, have no such opportunity, and if their fruit yield is large they must, of necessity, lie fallow, as it were, for a year, to prepare themselves for another flowering and fruiting. Manuring and the suppression of all competing growth will greatly aid them by giving general vigor and supply, but the first effect of this is to promote growth of new shoots, and we often see these so numerous and so leafy, after such cultural treatment, that the fruit buds, which are on prior wood further within the tree top, cannot get light for their rosettes of leaves, and so remain, in great part, dormant or undeveloped. It is when a tree is beginning to thrive, and making little new wood, that we see the fullest filling out of fruit buds and setting of fruit. It is the last effort of an injured or neglected tree. With good culture there must go judicious pruning, especially with thumb and finger; prompt suppression of redundant shoots, and thinning or parting of those that are well placed so as to admit light to the leaves of the fruit bearing spurs beneath. Without this, manuring may quite fail of its intended purpose.—W. G. Waring, sr., in New York Tribune.

American Light Brahmas.

Although this breed of fowls originally came from Asia and is therefore classed with Asiatic varieties, yet the distinctive appearance and the excellent qualities of those that are to be seen in this country, at the present time, so clearly show the skill and good sense of American breeders that our Light Brahmas seem to be almost as much an American breed as the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes.

From a race of fowls long in neck and leg, giving them a game-like stature, American breeders have given us a fowl of magnificent form, compact, and yet of the greatest weight of any breed recognized by our standard; quick in maturing, considering their size, and superior in egg production, when properly cared for. It is true that the English have also bred the original of this variety to a much better shape, but by their own admission they have greatly impaired the qualities of the Brahmas by breeding for excessive feathering—an approach toward Cochin characteristics which has nothing to

commend it; while the fact that such a course means slowness of maturing, weakening of the egg-producing function, and loss of vigor generally, shows how much we are indebted to our own breeders for adhering to a more rational policy.

The American Light Brahma is not characterized by loose or profuse feathering, and as a result, there are yards in New England to-day in which the pullets of this breed begin laying at the age of five months, or five months and a few days, though such precocity cannot be claimed for very many yards.

There can be little doubt, however, that a more intelligent method of caring for and feeding the growing pullets, would bring them to the laying period in six months from the shell. Wheat, oats, lean meat, milk and vegetables, or green food, with exercise and cleanliness, will accomplish this result. Brahmas, because of their tendency to take on fat, should never see a particle of corn or corn meal from the day they are hatched until it is desired to fatten them for market.

Many people do not have success with this variety of fowls because they fail to manage them properly. There is an end of egg production when a Brahma gets fat and lazy. They should be fed lightly in the morning on such nitrogenous food as shorts or ground oats, mixed with cut clover, or vegetables; then made to scratch all day for a little wheat or oats scattered in their litter, if kept confined, or made to scratch for worms and bugs if given free range. At night a full meal can be given. In this way they will receive full rations from which to form eggs, but they will get it in such a way, and at such times, as will keep them busy all day long. A faithful adherence to this plan cannot fail to give good results, whatever be the breed of fowls kept, though it is especially important in the case of the large varieties.

In mating Light Brahmas, it is important that the female should be of good size—extra large if one wishes the progeny to be large; while the male should be a compact bird, fine in shape and color, but not extra large in size, and especially important it is that he be not coarse in his general make-up. I am well satisfied that the dam more strongly controls size than the sire; while a fine-boned, compactly built, medium-sized male will counteract any tendency toward coarseness in the progeny. This principle is verified throughout the whole animal kingdom, and condemns the seeking after extra large males for breeding purposes.

The dark hackle and tail of a Light Brahma fowl are especially attractive as a contrast to their snowy plumage. To keep this dark color, it is important that the breeding stock be dark in the under-color of the feathers. There is a difference of opinion on this point, the standard allowing the under-color to be either white or slate color, but the experience of most breeders will probably point toward the dark under-color as desirable.

The breeding stock should also have well developed breasts—too many specimens failing in this respect—and legs that are medium in length, long enough to give an elegant carriage to the bird, but not stilty in appearance. To perpetuate the practical qualities of this breed, the most prolific layers should be selected from which to rear the future flocks. Continual selection in this way will be largely rewarded in the future.

When properly bred and properly managed, the Light Brahma stands in the front rank as a practical fowl for American farms, yielding a large supply of eggs during the fall—if early hatched—and winter, when eggs are at their highest price, and giving the largest dressed weight of any breed when they are sent to market, after filling the egg-basket with high-priced eggs.

We have other breeds as good for practical purposes, but none that combine beauty and excellence in a more marked degree than the American Light Brahmas.—Webb Donnell, in Mass. Ploughman.

About Mortgage Loans.

T. C. Sherwood, bank commissioner, has sent the following communication on the subject of mortgage loans to the senate: To the Honorable, the Senate, of the State of Michigan. Gentlemen—I am this day in receipt of the resolution adopted by your honorable body April 16 asking that the commissioner of the banking department report to the Senate what amount of farm mortgages are held by the banks of the State and the rate of interest thereon, and such commissioner is hereby requested to advise the Senate of such changes in the banking law of the State as may be perfectly safe to the investor and afford relief to the farmers. In response to said resolution, I beg leave to report on December 19 last, the last report received, 106 State banks, 67 of which were savings banks or banks with savings departments, and two trust companies, reported to this department commercial loans of \$27,628,145.16; stocks, bonds and mortgages, \$18,846,534.08. Of the latter \$5,353,752.83 were stocks and bonds and \$13,492,884.25 were mortgages. I am unable to give separately the amount loaned on farm and business property, the two being combined in reports made to this department; but from examinations made during the past year my opinion is, that a large proportion of money loaned by the State banks on mortgage security, is loaned on farms and homes of laboring men, and that a very small portion is loaned on business property, as those loans are usually taken by insurance companies, or eastern capitalists, at a lower rate of interest than western banks charge, viz: 6½ per cent, which is the average rate of interest charged by our State banks. In this connection I might say that the commercial loans are not all made to business men. Banks in our farming districts loan to farmers more readily than they do business men, and without mortgage security. In complying with your request to "advise the Senate of such changes in the banking law of the State as may be perfectly safe to the investor and afford relief to the farmer," I will say that in our State we have three classes of banks, viz: private banks, national banks and state banks. Private banks not being under supervision, I am unable to inform you how, or in what manner, they loan their deposits. National banks are restricted to a commercial business and cannot loan on mortgage security. State banks are permitted by law to transact both a commercial and savings business. Commercial banks are especially for the accommodation of farmers and business men. They are, and should be, exclusively devoted to the collection, safe-keeping and employment in temporary loans the floating capital of the country. Every farmer, merchant and manufacturer is dependent upon the commercial banks for funds to enable them to market the products of the farm and the goods of the merchant and manufacturer. Our State banking law permits commercial banks to loan on mortgage security, an amount not exceeding 50 per cent of their capital stock, and in my judgement the law in this respect should not be changed. The savings department of our State banks receive and care for the surplus money of the country that is not needed in active business. They are required by law to keep on hand 15 per cent of their deposits in cash to provide for the current daily business demands. Thirty-four per cent they can loan on negotiable paper, secured by collateral and short time commercial paper, that they may be able to meet unusual demands without being compelled to dispose of mortgage securities. Fifty-one per cent they are compelled to loan on bonds or real estate, and as farming lands are the best real estate security known, they are very desirable for these permanent loans. I cannot see how the law regulating loans could be more just or equitable, and at the same time afford proper security to the thousands of depositors who patronize savings banks. In order to benefit farmers and others who desire to borrow on

mortgage security, I suggested in my last annual report (pages 16 and 17) that the banking law be amended so that certificates of deposit could be classed as savings deposits. The amendment you wisely adopted, and when \$6,024,724.25—the amount of certificates of deposits reported last December, which were formerly classed as commercial deposits are required to be loaned, I think there will be no demand for a change in the banking law, or complaints from borrowers that they cannot obtain money from banks on suitable mortgage security.

Respectfully yours,

T. C. Sherwood,
Commissioner of the Banking Department.

Test of the Editor.

A good many people do not know that an editor's selections from his contemporaries are quite often the best test of his editorial ability, and that the function of the scissors is not merely to fill up vacant spaces, but to reproduce the brightest and best thoughts, and the most attractive news from all sources at the editor's command. There are times when the editor opens his exchanges and finds a feast for eyes, heart and soul. The thoughts of his contemporaries glow with life. He wishes his readers to enjoy the feast, and he lovingly takes up the scissors and clips and clips, and sighs to think that his space is inadequate to contain all the treasures so prodigally spread before him. Your true editor is generous, and will sacrifice his own ambition as a writer during such festive occasions, and it is of far more profit to his readers to set before them the original dish of dainties, with the label of the real author affixed, than to appropriate its best thoughts to himself, and reproduce them as his own. After all, the true test of a newspaper's real value is not the amount of original matter it contains, but the average quality of all the matter appearing in its columns, whether original or selected.—The Journalist.

The Telephone on the Farm

We are informed that the telephone patents all over the country are about to expire, and this means the breaking up of a gigantic monopoly. At present telephones cannot be purchased for private use, and hence their use is restricted to cities under the management of "Telephone Exchanges."

On the expiration of telephone patents the instruments will be put upon the market, and there is no good reason why farmers should not share in the benefits of this useful application of electrical science.

It is not improbable that in the more thickly settled agricultural districts the farm houses will have telephonic communication with the cities and villages, thus bringing the stores and offices of the city and the farm in ready communication.

The immense saving of time and other advantages secured by such facilities can be readily seen. Instead of losing a half day during the busy season to attend some business in the city or village the farmer will step to the telephone. He will not go to the postoffice after his mail until he finds out by telephone that there is important mail awaiting him. If the doctor is wanted he can be called before the horse can be harnessed.

The cities are not going to be allowed to monopolize all the benefits of modern science. The farmers are entitled to a share, and they will get it.

The coming generation will have an easier time than their fathers and grand-fathers enjoyed, but they will have to do more head-work, and hence need the preparation afforded by a thorough, practical education.

The World's Fair in '93

Will be held in Chicago. The Pioneer Buggy in '93 will be made in Columbus, O. If you care to know how, send 10 cents, silver or stamps, for "Complete Horse Book," and that will tell Pioneer Buggy Company, Columbus, Ohio.

The Farmers' Innings Close at Hand.

Look out for the boom! See our market reports. The cloud of agricultural depression is fast rolling away and is found to have a silver lining. Not for years has the middle of April witnessed such a boom and such a solid basis for its long continuance. Good times can't be much longer put off. The farmer is going to have his innings. He feels it. He is taking hold of the season's work with more vim and hope than for many a day. Now let us take every precaution to raise crops in quantity and quality that shall command the best prices. Study co-operation and get ready to work together in buying and selling. The time to make co-operation pay and farming profitable is when the boom is on. Let us keep cool, whittle down expenses, avoid extravagance, pay our debts, accumulate property. Then if depression comes again in a few years farmers will be in fine shape to weather the storm.—New England Homestead.

Certainly there has been no story so extraordinary in its plot and so forcible in its vivid descriptions, as the late Douglas O'Connor's "Brazen Android," the concluding portion of which appears in the Atlantic Monthly for May. If the first portion of the romance was remarkable, it was at least within those lines in which story-tellers are accustomed to confine themselves; but the character introduced in the second portion is so inexplicable, and his action in the story so tremendous, that what has seemed but strange hitherto becomes now the merest commonplace. The power of the story is of the same kind that one finds in Poe's "Fall of the House of Usher." It is a relief to turn from the tension of "The Brazen Android" to the portion of a hitto unpublished journal of Richard H. Dana, which describes a voyage on the Grand Canal of China. Mr. Dana's description of Su-Chau is immensely interesting, and it is curious to compare it with Mr. Lowell's Japanese papers; but the most valuable thing in Mr. Dana's notes is the description of a Chinese gentleman, named U-u. The picture of the exquisite courtesy and politeness of this individual is one of the most charming things in the magazine. He showed a characteristic bit of Chinese courtesy when, declining to smoke more than one or two puffs of his cigar or to take more than one or two sips of wine, he said, not that they were too strong for him, but that he was not strong enough for them—a finished politeness, which does not seem overstrained to the Eastern mind.—Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

Many years ago one of my comrades was sick with fever, and the regular doctor said he would die, as most of his fever patients did; but in the night, when the watcher was asleep in his chair, the patient, "burning up with fever," tongue and lips cracked open, "dying with thirst," reached the pail or pitcher of water and drank all he could. When the doctor came the next morning he was surprised to find his patient better—saved by nature's remedy, contrary to the doctor's science and murderous treatment. Thank the Lord, the doctors are progressing, using more common sense, and do not ruin as many constitutions as formerly.—Root's Gleanings.

CARE OF THE BRAIN.—The brain stands the most abuse of any organ in the body. Its best tonic and stimulant is success. The worst and most depressing thing to it is failure. The most injurious effects come by using stimulants in early life. Young people should never use liquors, tea or coffee. The latter two may not exactly do harm, but they are conducive of no good. They act mostly on the brain and injure its growth very materially. Abundance of sleep is necessary. Eight hours is not more than enough. Sleep is the time of relatively lowered expenditure and increased repair.

PATRON'S PAINT WORKS.

MANUFACTURER OF
INGERSOLL'S LIQUID RUBBER PAINT.
Ten Thousand P. of H. and Farmers testify they are best and Cheapest.
WRITE US AND SAVE MONEY.

Cheap, Indestructible Paints for
BARNES and OUTBUILDINGS.
Beautiful Sample Color Cards and Book of
Instructions—FREE.
OFFICE: 243 Plymouth St., Brooklyn, N. Y. We Guarantee Satisfaction.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

Platform of the Grange Adopted by the National Grange at its 7th Annual Session.

PREAMBLE.

Profoundly impressed with the truth that the National Grange of the United States should definitely proclaim to the world its general objects, we hereby unanimously make this Declaration of Purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry:

GENERAL OBJECTS.

1. United by the strong and faithful tie of Agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our Country and Mankind.

2. We heartily endorse the motto: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

SPECIFIC OBJECTS.

3. We shall endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to accomplish the following objects:

To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation. To maintain inviolate our laws, and to emulate each other in labor to hasten the good time coming. To reduce our expenses, both individual and corporate. To buy less and produce more in order to make our farms self-sustaining. To diversify our crops, and crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel, and more on hoof and in fleece. To systematize our work and calculate intelligently on probabilities.

To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy.

We propose meeting together, working together, buying together, selling together, and in general acting together for our mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may require. We shall avoid litigation as much as possible by arbitration in the Grange. We shall constantly strive to secure entire harmony, good will, vital brotherhood among ourselves; and to make our Order perpetual. We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional and National prejudices, all unhealthy rivalries, selfish ambition. Faithful adherence to these principles will insure our mental, moral, social and material advancement.

BUSINESS RELATIONS.

4. For our business interests, we desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible. Hence we must dispense with a surplus of middlemen, not that we are unfriendly to them, but we do not need them. Their surplus and their exactions diminish our profits.

We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interest whatever. On the contrary, all our efforts, so far as business is concerned, are not only for the benefit of the producer and consumer, but also for all other interests that tend to bring these two parties into speedy and economical contact. Hence, we hold that transportation companies of every kind are necessary to our success, that their interests are intimately connected with our interests, and harmonious action is mutually advantageous; keeping in view the first sentence in our Declaration of Principles of Action that "Individual happiness depends upon the general prosperity."

We shall, therefore, advocate for every State the increase in every practicable way, of all facilities for transporting cheaply to the seaboard, or between home producers and consumers, all the productions of our country. We adopt it as our fixed purpose to "open out the channels of nature's

great arteries, that the life-blood of commerce may flow freely."

We are not enemies of railroads, navigable and irrigating canals, nor of any corporation that will advance our industrial interests, nor any laboring class.

In our noble Order there is no communism, no agrarianism.

We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies to capital, but we oppose the tyranny of monopolies. We long to see the antagonism between capital and labor removed by common consent, and by an enlightened statesmanship worthy of the nineteenth century.

We are opposed to excessive salaries, high rates of interest and exorbitant per cent. profits in trade. They greatly increase our burdens, and do not bear a proper proportion to the profits of producers. We desire only self-protection and the protection of every true interest of our land by legitimate transactions, legitimate trade and legitimate profits.

EDUCATION.

We shall advocate the cause of education among ourselves and for our children, by all just means within our power. We especially advocate for our Agricultural and Industrial Colleges, that practical Agriculture, domestic science and all the arts which adorn the home, be taught in their course of study.

THE GRANGE NOT PARTISAN.

5. We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft-repeated truth taught in our organic law, that the Grange, National, State or Subordinate, is not a political or party organization. No Grange, if true to its obligations, can discuss political or religious questions, nor call political conventions, nor nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in their meetings.

Yet the principles we teach underlie all true politics, all true statesmanship; and if properly carried out, will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country. For we seek the greatest good of all.

We must always bear in mind that no one, by becoming a Patron of Husbandry, gives up that inalienable right and duty which belongs to every American citizen, to take a proper interest in the politics of his country.

On the contrary, it is right for every member to do all in his power, legitimately, to influence for good the action of any political party to which he belongs. It is his duty to do all he can in his own party to put down bribery, corruption and trickery; to see that none but competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, are nominated for all positions of trust; and to have carried out the principle which should always characterize every Patron, that

THE OFFICE SHOULD SEEK THE MAN AND NOT THE MAN THE OFFICE.

We acknowledge the broad principle that difference of opinion is no crime, and hold that "progress towards truth is made by difference of opinion, while the fault lies in bitterness of controversy."

We desire a proper equality, equity and fairness; protection for the weak, restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed power and equally distributed burdens. These are American ideas, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American Republic.

We cherish the belief that sectionalism is, and of right should be dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future. In our agricultural brotherhood and its purposes we shall recognize no North, no South, no East no West.

It is reserved by every Patron

as the right of a freeman to affiliate with any party that will carry out his principles.

OUTSIDE CO-OPERATION.

6. Ours being peculiarly a farmers' institution, we cannot admit all to our ranks.

Many are excluded by the nature of our organization, not because they are professional men or artisans, or laborers, but because they have not a sufficient direct interest in tilling the soil, or may have some interest in conflict with our purposes. But we appeal to all good citizens for their cordial co-operation to assist in our efforts toward reform, that we may eventually remove from our midst the last vestige of tyranny and corruption.

We hail the general desire for fraternal harmony, equitable compromises, and earnest co-operation, as an omen of our future success.

CONCLUSION.

It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by any means at our command.

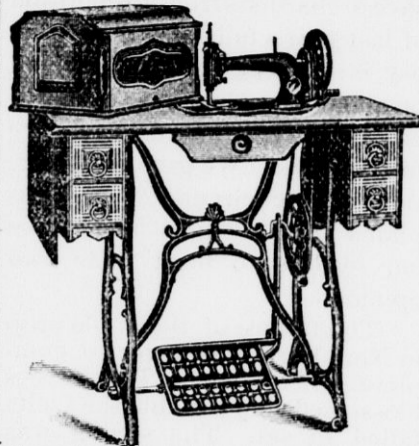
Last, but not least; we proclaim it among our purposes to inculcate a proper appreciation of the abilities and sphere of woman as is indicated by admitting her to membership and position in our Order.

Imploing the continued assistance of our Divine Master to guide us in our work, we here pledge ourselves to faithful and harmonious labor for all future time, to return by our united effort to the wisdom, justice, fraternity, and political purity of our forefathers.

ED. VISITOR:—Ere this reaches you a month will have flown swiftly by since the annual meeting of Huron County Pomona Grange No. 35, which took place on March 26, but those are the kind of gatherings that make the years and months pass not only swiftly, but pleasantly and profitably. Although the roads were very bad a large crowd managed to be on time to partake of a bountiful dinner, which was prepared by the sisters of Bingham Grange. The Grange was then opened and the officers elected as follows: Master, John Nugent; O., John Hunt; Lect., Wm. Burhans; Steward, Duncan McKenzie; Ass't Steward, John Pierce; Chaplain, Donald McTaggart; Treas., Duncan Buchanan; Sec'y, Mrs. Richard Nugent; G. K., Philip Cappler; Pomona, Mrs. Geo. Pangman; Flora, Mrs. J. Hunt; Ceres, Mrs. Colston; L. A. S., Mrs. Wm. Burhans. A resolution was then passed to hold our annual meeting in December. The name of J. F. Wager was recommended as a special deputy for Huron county. The Grange appointed a committee consisting of three, to confer with other farmers' organizations to arrange for having a county picnic sometime during the summer. The officers were installed by R. A. Brown, who occupied the Master's chair. Reports of subordinate Granges were quite encouraging. On re-assembling after dinner, the retiring Lecturer proceeded to give the address of welcome. It was indeed a very hearty welcome and was responded to with cheers. Miss Domer favored us with some good music, after which R. A. Brown was called on for a speech, to which he briefly responded. Philip Cappler read a poem, after which we had three excellent essays by members of Bingham Grange. The first by Wm. Pangman, "The Farmer and the Bondsman." It was a good production and was followed by discussion; next Mrs. John Hunt, "Importance of Making Home Pleasant." It was a beautiful illustration and we would infer that Bro. Hunt is blessed with a very pleasant home; Mrs. George Pangman, "The Farmer as a Citizen," which was well rendered and showed great talent. The question box was opened for a time and was

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GRANGE VISITOR, Paw Paw, Mich.

quite interesting. This ended the program and the Grange was closed. Nine candidates were initiated and instructed in the 5th degree. This looks quite favorable. Thus ended the day which we trust was profitable as well as pleasant. The place of next meeting is not yet determined but will be given in due time. Yours fraternally, MRS. R. NUGENT, Sec'y.

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The Apple Crop Failure.

From New York, as in our own state, comes the question: "What is the matter with the apple trees?" Very few are blossoming, all have a scanty leafage, and look weak and unfamiliar. The absence of fruit last year led most people to anticipate a large crop this season. The failure last year is not generally accounted for satisfactorily. We discovered that something unusual was affecting the trees early last season and sent some leaves to the Country Gentleman, of Albany, N. Y., and explained in a letter published in that paper, the appearance of the foliage, and asked for an opinion from a scientific standpoint. The specimens were submitted to Prof. Litner and he pronounced the trouble to be leaf blight or fungus. Upon farther examination we were convinced that the trouble was more deeply seated and in the next letter stated the conviction that the trees were suffering from the severe freeze of the March previous, following the warm spell in January. That the effect was more largely due to the premature upflow of sap. Under normal conditions the freeze of March was not severe enough to produce such an effect.

The conviction was so strong that in correspondence that has been published and in reports to the Secretary of State, we have reiterated the belief and predicted just what has been disclosed in the failure of the bloom. Last year the trees made scarcely any leaf growth, and little new wood. Under such circumstances, no preparation could be made for this year's fruitage. The trees had all they could do to get through the season with what little life was permitted by the shock of winter. Trees standing on a fertile soil had a better opportunity to recover, and such orchards may this year produce a fair crop, but old orchards on thin land are still in a very weak condition and many of the trees will gradually die.

The apple scab fungus is still charged with being the cause, by those who ought to have studied the matter sufficiently to arrive at correct conclusions. The fallacy of this is evident when we remember the power a healthy tree has to renew its foliage when it fails for any cause. There was no such effort last year. There is always more or less scab

on both leaf and fruit, and injured fruit cannot be renewed but the leaves can be and are.

Professor Bailey, of Cornell University, is out in a circular, sent by the "cider and vinegar makers' association" of New York, giving his fungus theory an airing and recommending a solution for spraying the trees to save orchardists from a repetition of last year's failure. If our theory is correct, the remedy will be about as valuable to orchardists as last year's birds' nests are to the birds. We give that portion of the circular which explains his thought and leave our readers to form their own opinions:

"The failure of the apple crop in New York was never so complete as in 1890. The trees blossomed very full, but the fruits failed to set. The spring was exceedingly wet, and mostly cool. Shortly afterwards the blossoms withered and fell, and the leaves of apples, pears and quinces began to blight. The rains were succeeded by drouth, which, in some sections, became severe. During the early part of the season the blight of the foliage increased, until, in July, when I inspected the orchards in Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Ontario and Cayuga counties, there were thousands of acres of apple orchards which appeared to be dying. In many places the quince orchards appeared to be scorched, and the foliage of the pears was speckled. Peaches dropped their leaves and fruits early in the season. The blackberries and later raspberries, in some sections, dried up and the bushes looked unhealthy. It is probable that similar injuries extend, in a greater or less degree, to all parts of State.

It is an almost universal opinion among growers that the weather is responsible for the general failure, particularly in the case of apples, where failure is the most complete and disastrous, and which were just out of the bloom when a prolonged storm, of unusual severity and accompanied by lightning, passed over the country.

In most cases the apples had set and were about the size of small peas when they began to die. They withered, turned brown and fell. At the same time, the young leaves began to look unhealthy, and they rapidly assumed a blighted appearance.

All these facts show that there is an intimate connection between the death of the flowers or young fruit and the blighting of the leaves. The blight is caused by the apple-scab fungus. Whether the flowers or young fruits were actually attacked by the fungus in this case, or whether they fell because of the impaired vitality of the injured trees, I am unable to say, but it is probable that their death is due in large part, directly or indirectly, to the fungus.

The G. A. R. Appropriation.

The Detroit papers are cross over the failure of the Legislature to pass the appropriation bill for entertaining soldiers in Detroit in August next. A large majority of the people of the state will applaud this conservative action of their representatives. While this large majority may not have expressed their opposition to such an expenditure in concise terms, out of respect for the feelings of soldiers, yet they will feel a sense of relief from the impending burden. The G. A. R. in this state and its members are making a mistake in the many demands upon the public for what it terms "recognition." The offices in township, county and state are filled with G. A. R. men on this plea, and it is getting exceedingly chestnutty. If they do not wish to pull these positions, into which they are piling over each other to get in, down on their heads, they will be more moderate in their demands. Governor Winans will lose none of the confidence in his judgement on which

the people are learning to rely, by the report that he will veto all such "aid" schemes.

About Plaster.

Several weeks since a letter was received from D. C. Blair, of Napoleon, containing skeptical views regarding the use of plaster. It spoke of the advocacy of its use by the VISITOR and the Michigan Farmer, and in a satirical vein wanted to know the cost of such an advertisement to the plaster people. The letter also contained a proposition to the owners of plaster mills to take a quantity of plaster and experiment with it on such crops and in such quantity as they might direct, and if the plants where plaster was sown could be detected by the added growth of the crop of either grain or clover, the plaster to be paid for, and if not the fertilizer to be free to the experimenter.

We placed the letter at once in the hands of the Western Plaster Agency at Grand Rapids and the following is the reply to Mr. Blair's proposition:

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., May 2, 1891. Mr. D. C. Blair, Napoleon, Jackson Co., Mich. DEAR SIR—Some of your communications relating to your experiments with land plaster have been referred to me, as I have watched many experiments with plaster and have done considerable experimenting with it myself, being the owner and operator of a large farm in Ottawa county, and interested in determining the value of plaster as a fertilizer. I notice what you say about the tests you have made with plaster that did not show favorable to it, and I have this to suggest. You may have sowed the plaster too late for that season, and the season may have been such that the crops you tried it on did not suffer for plaster. Again, you might have found, had you weighed your products from the various plats, that after all you had gained more, even that season, than the small amount you expended for plaster and labor to sow it, though you could not see the gain, as it stood on the ground.

I am satisfied from the investigations I have made during a number of years past among those who use plaster every year, that the question as to whether land plaster effects a great saving for farmers who use it, and especially on grass, is no longer an open question for discussion, and that the only question unsettled is how much it promotes the growth of the various crops, and whether or not it always helps and to an extent that it can be seen from the appearance of the crop on the ground. It seems to be a well settled fact that some seasons certain crops do not require plaster or are not benefited enough to be noticeable when the crop is on the ground.

Now, it has also been found, from actual practice, that this same state of things exists with other commercial fertilizers, at least with phosphates, which are known to be of value, and though farmers are sometimes unable to see the effect of them on their crop they continue their use. I have found this to be the case in my experiments. I used in three years over fifty tons of the best bone phosphate, put on from 150 to 300 pounds to the acre on pieces of from 10 to 20 acres in size, and sometimes could see no differences in the crops on the ground. I also applied plaster to large plats of the same kind by the side of these, and could see no difference between them, and two years I did this where I saw no difference between the plats so treated, and those which had nothing on. I continue to use plaster each year, however, having seen and learned from others that taking the seasons as they come I get more than five-fold returns for the money I expend for plaster and labor of sowing, and that this seems to be clear gain, coming from the air.

The article you speak of having seen in the paper about experiments made at the Agricultu-

ral College farm, showing so much in favor of plaster for grass, was, no doubt, the one taken from their official reports, and the experiments were made with the greatest care by Prof. Johnson, the hay from each plat being carefully weighed. You will, probably, remember that the experiments were made between plaster, salt and ashes. Another experiment by Prof. Johnson later in the season did not show as great an increase of growth, by reason of the use of either salt, ashes or plaster or so much in favor of plaster over ashes, etc. This last experiment amounted to further proof that you cannot tell by experimenting one season what the real value of plaster is to crops, as the benefits derived from the use of plaster are obtained from the air, instead of by enriching the ground as manure, as commercial phosphates etc. do.

I believe that the Plaster Association has sent you a car load of plaster to experiment with, which I am glad to hear, that you may test it, and have your neighbors do so, as you propose. It may be that some of these suggestions that I have made will remind you that it is necessary to note the kind of season, whether the season you experiment in is wet or dry, and such as to require plaster or not, and the necessity of weighing the crop from the various plats, to be thoroughly sure as to whether the plaster benefits, and how much. I would like to see you try some commercial phosphate in same quantities you use of plaster, on the same kind of crop by the side of it. Yours truly,

W. B. CHURCH.

The Area of Grain Sown.

On account of the advance in the price of grain, it is predicted by some that a largely increased area will be sown to these crops. This may be true in a measure with wheat, but in our opinion cannot be true of other grains. Farms are now well stocked down to clover, much of it only a year from seeding. No farmer entitled to the name, will sacrifice a good stand of clover, for what must of necessity be only for a temporary profit, with the chances of loss on the following crops, should a re-seeding fail. Farms are now run on a basis of about so much in grain each year, and cannot be changed with impunity. The area in oats is certainly smaller in many places than usual. We have yet to hear of an increased area in any locality. What might be done is not evidence of what will be done. We look for an average output of grain and more money for it.

Woman's Work.

We are in receipt of a letter from the chairman of Woman's Work in Lawrence Grange, Mrs. Chase Hathaway, which states that so many new members have been added to their numbers that routine work has occupied a large share of their time of late. However, two suppers and a play have been given, which netted several dollars that will be used in enlarging their hall, also two special meetings have been held for the discussion of important questions, one of which related to the adoption by the last State Grange of the executive committee's report, and a resolution in censure of the same was introduced which, after thorough discussion, was laid on the table. It further stated that there are those who believe the order to be "for the elevation of the ignorant and stupid and that free discussion dare not be allowed." We supposed the aim of the order was universally conceded "to be the elevation of all within the gates," and certainly the class above referred to is the one most in need of its elevating influence. In the matter of discussion we deemed that great latitude was allowed, partisan politics, religion and personalities only being debarred. We should be glad to receive the reports from the committee on Woman's Work in many other Granges. We suppose the women of each Grange must decide

for themselves in what line they can work to best advantage the interest of that special Grange, and we hope that none will incite or lend their aid to dissention, but that our labors may all tend in the direction of "Peace on earth, good will toward men." ALICE M. GOULD, Mem. State Com. on Woman's Work.

To The Patrons of Husbandry of the United States.

DELTA, Ohio, May 5th, 1891.— Pursuant to a resolution adopted at the Twenty-second Annual Session of the National Grange, I have selected the Sixth day of June, A. D. 1891, as "Children's Day," and I sincerely hope that our entire order will strive to make it one of pleasure and profit to the Boys and Girls who are growing to manhood and womanhood upon the farms of our country.

State Masters are requested to supplement this Proclamation and do all in their power to interest all in the exercises of the day. For good reasons, State Masters may select some other day for their jurisdiction, but it is desirable that all unite upon the day named.

Fraternally,
J. H. BRIGHAM,
Master of National Grange.

The Statistician, J. R. Dodge of the Department of Agriculture, evidently feels with the VISITOR that great injustice is done to facts by a class of agricultural writers who, under the influence of the prevailing craze, are misrepresenting, minifying and depreciating the financial status and prosperity of the farmer; he says:

The misrepresentation of politico-rural writers and speakers, relative to farm profits and farmers' indebtedness, and their utter helplessness and hopelessness is the most monumental exhibition of mendacity of the present time. I will allow every jot and tittle of existing rural disability and misery, and there will be ample warrant for this remark in depreciation of the current belittling and pauperizing of American manhood in rural life and action. Self-respecting agriculturists are disgusted and mortified at the mediant condition in which they are placed by charlatans and cranks.

We get letters occasionally from persons who have been filled with this bile of discontent, criticising the position the VISITOR is taking on these questions; but we have never been able to state our belief quite so strongly as the above—coming from the fore front of agriculture in the United States.

Several Pomona Grange meetings are noticed in this number. We should be pleased to send bundles of VISITORS to be distributed at each meeting with the reminder that renewals and new names is what makes an announcement of these meetings possible. Will secretaries send us a card ordering the papers and direct where they are to go to.

The "declaration of purposes" of our order, printed on 3d page of this issue, is good reading for old members who have forgotten some of its teachings, and especially valuable for those of an inquiring mind who are "almost persuaded" that the Grange, after all, is the best and most stable of the many farmers' organizations seeking endorsement. Read it.

We would like notices of Farmers' Club meetings sent to the VISITOR regularly. We call attention to the Jackson county meeting May 27th, a notice of which appears on eighth page.

Mrs. H. L. Dayton, sec'y Rollin Grange, informs us that the response to the address of welcome to the Pomona Grange, held at Onstead, cannot be gotten for publication as requested by the meeting.

Father's Way.

My father was no pessimist; he loved the things of earth,
Its cheerfulness and sunshine, its music and its mirth;
He never sighed or moped around whenever things went wrong;
I warrant me he'd mock at death with some defiant song,
But, being he warn't much on tune, whenever times were blue,
He'd whistle softly to himself the only tune he knew.
Now, mother, when she learned that tune which father whistled so,
Would say, "There's something wrong to-day with Ephraim, I know."
He never tries to make believe he's happy that ere way,
But that I'm certain as can be some trouble is to pay!"
And so, betimes, quite natural like, to us observant youth,
There seemed suggestion in that tune of deep pathetic truth.
When Brother William joined the war a lot of us went down
To see the gallant soldier boys ride gayly out of town;
A-comin' home, poor mother cried as if her heart would break,
And all us children, too, for hers and not for William's sake!
But father, trudgin' on ahead, his hands behind him so,
Kept whistlin' to himself so sort of solemn like and low.
And when my eldest sister Sue was married and went west,
Seemed like it took the tuck right out of mother and the rest;
She was the sunlight in our home; why, father used to say
It wouldn't seem like home at all if Sue should go away!
Yet when she went, a-leavin' us all sorrow and all tears,
Poor father whistled lonesome like and went to feed the steers.
When crops were bad, and other ills befel our homely lot,
He'd set around and try to act as if he minded not,
And when came death and bore away the one he worshipped so,
How vainly did his lips belie the heart benumbed with woe!
You see the tell-tale whistle told a mood he'd not admit;
He'd always quit his whistlin' when he thought we noticed it.
I'd like to see that stooping form and hoary head again,
To see the bonest, hearty smile that cheered his fellow men;
Oh, could I kiss the kindly lips that spake no creature wrong,
And share the rapture of that heart that overflowed with song;
Oh, could I hear the little tune he whistled long ago,
When he did battle with the griefs he would not have us know!
—Eugene Field, in Chicago News.

Hints for the Garden.

An excellent contrivance for protecting small seedlings when first placed in the borders, or well-grown but weakish perennials, early in the season, from slugs, is the dome-shaped wire cover used in the country for excluding flies from butter, meat, cheese, etc. This article is to be had of several sizes, from 5 to 12 or 15 inches in diameter, and at a cost, when bought by the dozen and of assorted size, of from eight to ten cents apiece. The cover has a thin edge of tin, which is easily pressed down into the soft ground, thus insuring the complete exclusion of the enemy, while the little knob at the top enables one to quickly raise, move or remove the article when desirable.
It seems almost an impossibility to start plants in the open ground, as they are likely to be devoured as soon as they appear above the surface; but with the use of the cover, the protection is perfect, and the seedlings may not only show themselves, but may remain quietly in place, especially in the case of perennials, until of quite good size and the heat has driven the slimy creature we dread to his summer quarters. Under a 12-inch cover, a hundred seeds can be germinated, and there stay until three or four inches in height; and the plants so grown will be greatly stronger than those started beneath glass—in fact, will be ready, when set separately in the border, to continue their upward and lateral growth.
Another garden convenience is the two-pointed tack such as is employed for fastening matting to the floor. I recommended the use of this tack, some eight or ten years since, for attaching vines to posts, close fences and weather-boarding, and my opinion of it to-day is precisely what it was when I first called attention to it. For the clematis, the ivy, ivy-leaved geranium, rose when young, the manettia vine, the Ampelopsis vetches, or Boston ivy, and other climbers, it is just the article needed. The use of this little staple saves much time, and the work done with it is neat, clear and inconspicuous, quite unnoticeable in fact, even

in cases where the leaves of the plant supported but partially cover the upholding fence or weather-boarding. The tack is to be had of several sizes and at a price low enough for its use by all.—B. F. L., in Santa Clara, April 27, 1891.

Farmer Jones' Management.

ED. VISITOR.—Rather a better heading than the above would be mismanagement.

There is an old proverb that says, "He who by the plow would thrive, himself must either hold or drive."

Farmer Jones don't believe in proverbs to the extent of profiting by them, no matter how much truth they may contain. He thinks the world has progressed since the proverbs were made, hence argues that they are not applicable to to-day.

But there are proverbs and proverbs; some of them are all wool and a yard wide, and have never shrunk an ell in the past thousand years.

But as I said, Jones don't manage, so the hired men (he keeps two or three by the year) run matters to suit themselves, which arrangement may be mighty convenient for the hired men—and pleasant, too—but it isn't profitable for Jones by a great many dollars in the course of a year.

It isn't human nature, and especially the nature of hired men, to do more than there is need of, and when they can get as much for two-thirds of a day's work as for full time, it soon happens that they only do the two-thirds nine days out of ten.

Jones worked hard when young (we all do if you take our word for it when old) but now he is getting stout, he likes to take things easy, hence he lies abed mornings until Mrs. J. calls him to breakfast. We wonder if he ever considers that Mrs. J. would like to lie abed till breakfast time, too, but we can't see why she shouldn't as well as he, as she does twice as much work as he does every day, but Jones is "long sighted" and can't see things so near home.

The hired men get up when they feel like it, and when they have been out late the night before, exercising Jones' best horse and buggy, that is not very early, but Mrs. J. gets breakfast as soon as possible and the men sometimes get to work by eight o'clock, when the days are long, if Jones does not sit and talk too long after breakfast. Hired men are fond of listening to Jones' ideas, especially as they get just as much for it as for plowing.

After breakfast Farmer Jones generally has "business to attend to in town" at least five days in each week, so the hired men can go ahead with the work in their own way.

Of the men neither is boss, but they "consult"—consultation takes time—but when they decide on what each will do, they generally do it, tho' one of them may decide to go visiting, for which little diversion Jones makes no reduction, as he knows nothing about it.

Hence it will be seen the hired men have an agreeable time of it and Jones takes it easy. But does he thrive? Look at his farm and see; things at sixes and sevens. How long can he go on at that rate? Well, about as long as Mrs. J. can stand it to scrape and save in the thousand and one ways she must—to go without things she needs, and teach her daughters to do likewise.

He that by the plow would thrive, nimsel must ei, her hold or drive.

That is a downright fact, just as much to-day as ever, and if Jones wants to succeed he must put his hand, to the plow, or do the driving. A plow won't guide itself and run straight; no more will a farm run itself.

Two bosses are a little better than no boss at all. Time is money and time wasted is money lost. When good management rules and the minutes are looked to, it will be found that a great deal can be accomplished in the course of a year, but it needs the master's eye to keep things in shape.

One who has no interest in the success or failure cannot be trusted to run things. Farmer Jones will thrive when he learns

that he must hold or drive, if he don't learn that fact too late.

There is still another side to the question of this management. If the "men" are young they are forming habits of good or ill, and Jones is, in a measure, responsible for the habits they form while in his employ. If they grow careless, lazy and shiftless under his lack of management he turns them off (when he can no longer stand their ways) upon the world worse than when he took them in his employ, only to hire others on whom he repeats the debasing influence. There will be a heavy account for some one to answer for and Jones better study over it a little, and see if it wouldn't be policy for him to "hold or drive."

Is your name Jones?

Eaton Rapids.

An Enthusiastic Granger.

Editor Husbandman:—It is only fair, when one has been greatly benefitted by any special means, to make due acknowledgment of that benefit, first, as a matter of justice and secondly, that others may be informed of the benefit and utilize the same means for their good.

I am a farmer, and with my wife (we are childless) have lived upon a good farm which I inherited, ever since my marriage, about eighteen years ago. My wife, previous to our marriage, was a farmer's daughter, living on the outskirts of a large town. Our home is some eight miles from any considerable village or railway station, and though very pleasantly located, is, I have found out a rather lonesome place. The first few years of married life passed pleasantly enough, perhaps as pleasantly as the average. When about ten years had gone, somehow things did not go so smoothly. I had no financial reverses to annoy me, nor was my health particularly impaired. But I found myself growing more and more solitary in disposition. I disliked the effort of dressing and driving to town and to church. I think I began to grow a little crabbed in my disposition and I don't think my wife enjoyed my society as well as formerly. My wife began to lose her interest in many things that formerly pleased her. The piano was never opened and she was moping a good deal of the time. In short she was getting misanthropic, as well as myself and it was getting to be a debatable question with us, whether life was worth living. All these changes had come upon us gradually—so much so as to attract no special attention, but an occasional retrospective glance set me to thinking. One day a chance remark awakened a series of reflections. I began to see that I had not dealt fairly with my wife and that I had suffered as well as she, and I determined to see what could be done.

Just about that time I had a long talk with an intelligent neighbor, who had suffered much as I had and together we held a session, in committee of the whole, on the means of relief. After some debate, we thought of the Grange and the more we talked it over, the more enthusiastic we became. We broached the matter to our wives. My wife was pretty far gone in indifference, but she gave a languid consent. We went to work with a will and in less than three months had a working Grange of over forty members. What is the result?

To speak for myself and family, we have really been rejuvenated. The world is brighter, our health is better, we really enjoy life intensely. The manifold interests of the Grange have given us something to think of outside of self. I hear the piano frequently and my wife has found her voice again. It must be a disagreeable night that keeps us from our Grange meeting.

The neighborhood is changed. The farmers are more active, modern and progressive. Co-operation has given us, among other things, a road machine and good roads. Our influence has been felt in local politics and our civil service is better. In a hundred ways we have been benefitted and there is no surcease in the flow. There are thousands

of neighborhoods who need just such a rejuvenation and where a Grange missionary would find a field, white for the harvest.

I shall ask you to withhold my name and address, because my wife, who has just read all this insists on it—"its true" she says "but I don't want you to tell the world how cross I once became and how cranky you were, all for the want of the Grange." Sincerely yours—Enthusiast, in Husbandman.

New Song Book for the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry.

PAW PAW, May 9, 1891.—The Executive Committee of the National Grange has made a contract with Prof. James L. Orr, of Mansfield, Ohio, to revise and enlarge the song book of the order (The National Grange Choir) by taking out 28 of the songs and adding 100 new songs and music, making a book of 192 pages. The work is now in progress and will be completed as soon as practicable. Members of the order who are in possession of any choice gems of songs, either original or selected, and not prohibited from use by copyright, will do a favor by sending them to Prof. Orr, or to any member of the Executive Committee, for examination as to their suitability for the work. Singers and musicians in the order are specially invited to aid in making such selections, and in giving such advice, and in making such suggestions as may occur to them as important. It is the aim and desire of the committee and of the brothers to make the work, not only creditable to the order as a song book and adapted to all Grange meetings, but second to no work of a like character now before the public. By order of the Committee,

J. J. WOODMAN, Sec'y.

Market Review and Indications.

The live stock markets still continued to raise until last week when the highest price, with but a single exception, since war prices prevailed, was paid for wool sheep in Buffalo. Wool lambs of 85 lbs. weight bringing \$8.50 per cwt. and clipped lambs selling about a dollar per cwt. less; the other class of stock sympathized with sheep and the past two weeks afforded a good strong market. Last Friday and Saturday prices on all kinds weakened a little. This was the inevitable result of high prices. The retail butchers raised the price of meats and in consequence the sale of dressed meat was restricted and the markets gradually filled up. On Monday, May 11, live stock of all kinds was quoted dull and lower in all the leading markets. Thus, in spite of continued light receipts, the heaviest decline being on common stock, export cattle show little if any decline, and European markets are stronger. Grass fed Texan sheep are making their appearance in the markets and fed sheep are reported nearly all shipped out. Commission men claim that unless there are more sheep in Texas than are reported, this class of stock will continue to bring good prices until they fatten on the grass in the Northern states.

Among the leading features of the May number of the North American Review will be articles by Bishop Potter, of New York, the Secretary of the Navy, Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. E. J. Phelps, Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Henry Cabot Lodge, and H. A. Taine, the famous French circle.

The VISITOR is notified of the death of Cyrus F. Richardson, of Big Rapids Township, in his 54th year.

Died, in Jefferson, April 19th, 1891, of Inflammatory Rheumatism, Kate, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Miller. Aged 16 years and 5 months. Also a member of South Jefferson Grange No. 182.

Not many physicians make great therapeutic discoveries. For the most part they content themselves with administering judiciously what is prescribed in the books. To Dr. J. C. Ayer, however, is due the credit of discovering that greatest of blood purifiers—Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

The Ladies' Home Journal.

Even that annual bugaboo, house-cleaning, loses its terrors before the Ladies' Home Journal's happy faculty for turning things bright side out. It must be a dull housewife indeed who cannot find encouragement and substantial help in the cheery words of Maria Parloa, Christine T. Herrick, Helen Jay and Isabel A. Mallon in the May number, every corner of which is pervaded with the breeze and sunshine of spring, from the dainty verses of Clinton Scollard, Annie Isabel Willis, Mary L. Storer and Madeline S. Bridges to Eben E. Rexford's flower talks and Mrs. Mallon's page for "The Girl Who Graduates". Another feature of special interest to the girls is the very suggestive article on "The Care and Dressing of the Hair," with numerous illustrations. That the series "Unknown Wives of Well-Known Men" should be so popular is not remarkable, when it contains such excellent portrait sketches as that of Mrs. Chauncey M. Depew; and another popular chord is struck in presenting the question of woman in medicine, the women physicians being ably championed by Dr. Phoebe J. B. Wait, while Dr. Geo. F. Shady speaks strongly for "The Man's View." In the first chapters of "A Soul from Pudge's Corners" Jessie F. O'Donnell gives promise of a story of exceptional strength, well worthy of a place near "A Golden Gossip," which is unquestionably among Mrs. Whitney's finest work. The charming personality of the Abbe Liszt is well preserved in Etelka Willheim Illofsky's reminiscences; Mr. John Stevenson tells of the first horse-car, built by himself; and the bright suggestions for summer gowns are not the least among the good things of an especially clever number. Issued at one dollar a year, or ten cents a copy, by the Curtis Publishing Co., 433-435 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa.

To Cane and Fruit Growers.

The attention of our readers is called to the two advertisements of the Blymyer Iron Works Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, which appear in this issue. Their Victor and Niles Mills and Cook Evaporators for Sugar Cane and Sorghum, have for many years been looked upon as Standard Machinery, in all sections of the world where cane is grown. The "Zimmerman" Evaporators for Fruits and Vegetables have the same worldwide reputation. Parties in want of Cane or Fruit Machinery will do well to send for catalogue and prices.

The next regular meeting of Lenawee Co. Pomona Grange will be held with Morenci Grange, Thursday June 4th. A good program will be furnished by Medina Grange.

All patrons are earnestly invited to come.

WAYLAND DOWLING, Sec'y.
Rome Center, Mich.

CENTREVILLE, May 12.
St. Joseph Co. Grange No. 4 will hold its next County Grange meeting at Centreville Grange Hall on Thursday, the 4th day of June. All Patrons of Husbandry are cordially invited.

MRS. W. B. LANGLEY, Sec.

Allegan Co. Pomona Grange was entertained by Grange No. 248 in their hall at Moline Thursday, April 16. The bad state of roads, combined with the busy season and la grippe prevented the full attendance that had been hoped for. However, the program was very well carried out, considering the absence of so many who has been expected to have a part in it.

MRS. S. FELTON.

Time Proves all Things.

Ontario Co., N. Y. March 25th, 1891. Mr. O. W. Ingersoll, Dear Sir:—I have been acquainted with your Paints for many years, a neighbor painted his house 12 or 14 years ago with your Liquid Rubber Paints, and it looks well at the present time, this satisfies me that they are the most durable and color lasting Paint on the market. I will use no other.

Very Respectfull,
R. M. ALLEN.
See adv. Patrons' Paint Works.

Ladies' Department.

The Coming of May.

The still sweet air breathes in prophetic tone,
In whisperings low, and many a gentle moan.
Young grasses leap with quick and joyous spring,
And o'er the earth their freshest odors fling;
The low-bowed crocuses, with murmurs say
To one another, "There's a sweeter day."
The golden sunshine, with its gladdening rays,
Calls down from mountain brooks with silver
sprays.
The budding tree with joyous bird-song rings,
Like echoes from a thousand golden strings!
All nature smiles a welcome blithe and clear,
While May comes through the doorway of the
year.
—Mary L. Storer, in Ladies' Home Journal.

Who Bides His Time.

Who bides his time, and day by day
Faces defeat full patiently,
And lifts a mournful roundelay,
However poor his fortunes be,
He will not fail in any quait
Of poverty. The paltry dime,
It will grow golden in his palm
Who bides his time.
Who bides his time—he tastes the sweet
Of honey in the saltiest tear;
And though he walks with slowest feet,
Joy runs to meet him drawing near.
The birds are heralds of his cause,
And, like a never-ending rhyme,
The roadside blooms in his applause
Who bides his time.
Who bides his time, and fevers not,
In the hot race that none achieves,
Shall wear cool wreath of laurel wrought
With crimson berries in the leaves;
And he shall reign a goodly king,
And sway his hand on every clime,
With peace writ on his signet ring,
Who bides his time.

Why the Daisies are White.

Once on a time a quarrel rose,
'Tis said, between the impatient Spring
And that old Greybeard Winter, who
Yet longer to his throne would cling.
"My turn it is," quoth Mistress Spring,
"To reign, and clothe the earth anew.
How long must all my beauties lie
Concealed, for fear of such as you?"

When to the sunbeams, coaxingly,
She turned and said: "To you alone
I look for help, earth's chain to loose,
And drive this loiterer from the throne."
So, tempted by her smiling face,
The sunbeams answered to her call,
And tho' old Winter battled well,
His kingdom soon began to fall.

"But if you think," he coldly said,
"All traces of me to wipe away,
My memory still shall haunt and lie
Upon your meadows day by day."
And on that night a messenger
By Winter sent to Daisyland,
Upon each daisy blossom laid
A sheet of snow with lavish hand.

And Mistress Spring, when she beheld
The souvenir of Winter's reign,
Smiled, as she softly kissed her pets,
And foiled his purpose once again.
For in the heart of each white flower,
She laid a bit of golden sun;
And bade it nestle closely there,
Until sweet daisy life was done.

And thus the fair field flower grew,
Spring's golden sunshine, warm and bright,
At rest forever in its heart,
The while its leaves, like snow, are white.

Hints for the Sick Room.

There are few persons, especially among women, who will not at some time in their lives be called upon to act in the capacity of nurse; and fewer still who will not have cause to be grateful for the ministrations of skillful and efficient hands, or to be annoyed by the blunders of incompetent, though well meaning ones.

When we plan for ourselves a house, or make for ourselves a sick room we shall need some day; not that we seek the presence of sickness, for he is ever an unwelcome guest, even as the Angel of Death who comes unbidden to our door and takes our loved ones from us.

"There is no flock, however watched or tended,
But one dead lamb is there;
There is no fireside, how so 'ere defended,
But has one vacant chair."

When the young girl's education is planned, she is to be instructed in the common English branches, perhaps is to have a seminary or college course, she is to be given music, painting, embroidery and needle work; she may be sent to a school where she will be taught the culinary art, or her diet kitchen may be at home under the skillful management of a wise and loving mother; thus with her plain or advanced education, her accomplishments, and her knowledge of house-wifery she is considered competent and well qualified to take up the duties of a home and family. Says a great English physiologist, "If knowledge is real and genuine, I do not believe it to be other than a very valuable possession, however infinitesimal its quantity be. Indeed, if a little knowledge be dangerous, where is the man who has enough to be out of danger?" Then why not have the girls learn what to do for the sick, and how to care for them? Many mothers have a little grave to weep over because they did not know what to

do in some emergency; especially is this true in contagious diseases when a little knowledge used at the proper time will save not only the infected one, but probably the whole family from contagion. Who can then doubt the importance of knowing how to do for the sick, especially where knowledge is so easy to obtain?

Health has been comprehensively defined as the "perfect circulation of pure blood in a sound organism." Any departure from these conditions constitute disease, from which we endeavor to escape. To assist this is the object of treatment; in many cases the recovery of a person will depend more upon the care he receives than upon medical skill; it is a work which falls largely, though not exclusively, to the lot of women, and it has sometimes been claimed that all women make good nurses simply by virtue of their womanhood, but this is far from true, for Sairy Gamp is not only the amusing creation of a novelist but she has been counterparted many times in the olden time nurses, and in the present day. She had to have her half pint of porter "reg'lar" and a draught between was never amiss. She kept her bottle in her patient's coat pocket, as it hung on the wall, making a very convenient cupboard, out of sight though not out of reach. When people are sick in a strange land away from the tender care their own homes and friends would offer, they are often at the mercy of such treatment as Mrs. Gamp would furnish.

First of all let our sick room be a place of sunshine, pure air and cleanliness. The Italians have a proverb that, "where the sun does not come the doctor does." It has also been proven that an open tent on a battle field was the best hospital, where there were no unhealthy drains to contaminate the air, nor small, low rooms to hold the impurities of disease, being constantly thrown out from the sick person, but light and sunshine, and perfect ventilation. Any room with no pure air coming in must necessarily contain foul air, if there be only one person in the room. A healthy adult breathes about 18 or 20 times a minute; about 16 respirations will completely renovate the air in the lungs, in which time nearly 6,000 cubic inches of air will be inhaled. Consider then how in a close room you will be breathing the air that has passed into the lungs and out again, and how impure it must be. Perfect ventilation is bad air being constantly replaced by pure air without any draft or exposure to the patient. Always keep the sick room well ventilated; during the night as well as during the day. The room will be colder then, especially toward evening, but do not shut out the pure air because it is cold, but furnish warm air, and then at least once a day give the room a thorough airing. Cover the patient well with extra blankets, tucking the clothes snugly down at the neck, place a light shawl about the head, cover the face with a handkerchief and open all the doors and windows, letting the pure air, even if the thermometer is down to zero, circulate through, under and over everything in the room. After closing the doors and windows do not remove the extra covering from the patient until the thermometer has again reached the standard of 68° or 70°. It is a common practice to have food, medicine, and all sorts of paraphernalia lying about the sick room in a confusion that would make a well person sick. If you have a bowl of broth, or a plate of toast, when the patient has eaten all he cares for, do not leave the dishes on the stand or the sticky medicine glass on a chair by the bedside, or the soiled and crumpled towel on the bed. A lady had once been very sick and as she was getting better she seemed melancholy, and when the doctor asked her what was the matter she said: "Oh, Doctor, I didn't know until today how sick I had been, but I have been counting up my medicine bottles on the bureau and there are thirteen!" Banish these things from the sight of the sick person and substitute a

growing plant or two, or a vase of cut flowers which are not objectionable, unless of strong odor, and the water kept fresh and the flowers themselves thrown away as soon as they commence to fade. Do everything possible to make the sick room the brightest and cheeriest in the house, for depression is the inevitable accompaniment of sickness, and although it can not be entirely removed, dark, gloomy and unpleasant surroundings do much to intensify it.

There are few things more annoying to a sick person than whispering. A low tone of conversation will seldom annoy, but he will strain his attention to catch the whispered words, imagine they are about himself, and work himself into much discomfort and perhaps injury over a few words he might hear, and more he would imagine. Noise that is understood is far less trying than anything unexpected or unnecessary. Keep rocking chairs out of the room, and avoid shoes that squeak. When you go in to visit a sick person do not ask him all about his ills, aches and troubles, but inquire interestedly and kindly of his condition, then talk of something that will give him pleasure after you are gone. A bit of news, a little incident you had read in a paper perhaps, or something amusing that happened at your own home. In fevers give plenty of ice and cooling drinks, bath the face, neck and arms frequently in cool water to which may be added a little cologne, bay rum or alcohol. Where there is high fever bathe the entire body thus. First remove the clothing and place a blanket or large shawl under and over the patient, under which gently sponge the whole of the fevered body, especially the poor tired back. I have seen this simple bathing reduce the fever and the patient fall off in a comfortable refreshing sleep.

One person only should be responsible for the giving of medicine. If more than one have charge, each may leave it to the other, and so the hours pass and the next hour comes each will want to atone for the last miss, and the poor patient may have two or three doses. If there are many medicines, and different kinds, the best and safest way is to have a paper and keep a record of everything given. If you administer a dose, make a note of it on the record, and also of the hour at which you gave it. Invalids are often utterly unreasonable. It is as much the part of some diseases as the physical symptoms are. A sick person is for the time being as a child, and we should scarcely mind their whims and irritability. Be firm yet gentle; if he sees that nothing is overlooked or forgotten he will soon leave you to do his thinking for him. Do not ask him what he will have to eat; he will generally say he does not know, or does not care, or does not want anything, but if you bring a neatly arranged tray of tempting food he will eat it with a relish and wonder what you will bring next time.

Here, as in all our life work, whatever it be, let us be loving, kind and earnest, true to ourselves, and to our Creator, then let us be content to say:

"If a pilgrim has been shadowed
By a tree that I have nursed;
If a cup of clear, cold water
I have raised to lips athirst;
If I've planted one sweet flower
By an else too barren way;
If I've whispered in the moonlight
One sweet word to tell of day;
If in one poor bleeding bosom
I a woe-swept chord have stilled;
If I've made for life's hard battle,
One faint heart grow warm and strong;
Then, my God, I thank Thee—bless Thee
For the precious gift of life."

HANNAH PROSEUS TOWAR, Agricultural College, Mich.

Excuses.

Have you ever thought what very dangerous things are excuses? They are so much more convenient to give than real reasons, and we unconsciously lose sight of the fact that they easily lead to misrepresentation.

If a plausible excuse will cover the true motives of an action that we would rather conceal, we have little compunction in giving it, and would be startled sometimes if we realized how nearly it borders on deliberate untruth.

It is better to be silent and leave the reasons for a course of

conduct to the inference of others, than to try to palliate judgment by offering well sounding excuses we know to be fallacies.

It has been said that woman, in her inherent desire to please, more readily excuses herself than does a man—who, with that fine indifference characteristic of our "lords of creation," and perhaps based on that power they feel is theirs by right of creation, disdains to make use of such inuendoes! How true this may be I do not know, but I am very sure both men and women are too much given to making statements as to "why and wherefore" they are wide of the mark. They do it in all innocence every day; they say, "I do so and so for such and such a reason." It is a "good excuse," but when they consider the matter closely, they find they did "so and so" from very different causes. They do not mean to falsify, but it is done.

In "polite society" the excuses given for refusing invitations, etc., are perhaps the most harmless kind, for it is well understood that the real reasons are not expected.

It is generally the case in fashionable society that the appearance is everything. What sounds well and looks well is proper and reality is ignored. With the creed that it is vulgar to be conscious of an unpleasantness—anything unsightly, and it may be added, anything true—genuineness is a jewel, even rarer than consistency.

Those of us who are so in the habit of making excuses on all occasions, would find, by testing the matter, that we could very easily dispense with them. When you cannot give the real reason, remain resolutely silent; and even if you can give the real reason, it is generally better taste, unless called directly to account, not to do so. The best excuses in the world are, in fact, tiresome things.

"I haven't time" is an excuse that has been harped upon until it is utterly meaningless; it is the rarest instance that it is given with truth. So many women say, "I haven't time to read," "I haven't time to write letters," "I haven't time to do this nor the other thing." It is almost invariably a pretense, and simply means, "there are other things I would rather do than read or write letters, etc." We are very prone to give our time to what most pleases us.

A girl will sew and do fancy work until her form is stooping and her complexion sallow, and say, "I haven't time to walk and take out-door exercise." She has the time. Each day has twenty-four hours for her as well as for anyone else, but she prefers devoting her time to dress and such vanities, so she does it.

It is all a matter of choice and I am sorry to say most women choose the least important things, and have not "time" to preserve their health and cultivate their minds. The woman who will persistently do this, under the cover of flimsy excuses, seems possessed of a mild, but most injurious form of lunacy. It is hard to know how to reach them. They are utterly incorrigible and exasperating. Eleanor Kirk says it does no good to call them "fools," for she has tried it.

I believe we would be amazed if we knew how very few excuses we could get along with. Since I have come to consider the matter I have noticed that almost invariably an excuse may just as well be dispensed with; and above all things do not let us form the habit of saying, "I haven't time!" The most provoking and deluded creature on earth is the woman who devotes her soul and body to frivolities, and, when questioned as to why she doesn't do something else, sweetly murmurs, "I haven't time." I cannot express what I think of her in polite English, but it recalls to my mind the words of the poet—

"Oh, frailty! thy name is Woman."

HELEN C. MOLLOY.

A conscientious person should beware of getting into a passion; for every sharp word one speaks lodges in one's own heart, and such slivers hurt us worse than any one else.—Harriet Beecher

To-Day.

Say not to-morrow! To-day is your own
To parcel as you will.
For who can tell that when the day has flown
He shall be living still?
Oh, blest is he whose daily balance sheet
Brings perfect work to view,
Whose closing day leaves no task incomplete
For other hands to do.
To-morrow's but a Jack o'lantern sprite
That flees the laggard's clasp;
To-day's the Power whose hand of gracious might
Holds fortune in its grasp.

Invention the Friend of Woman.

The most conspicuous, as well as the most beneficent, of the sociological changes which this century has witnessed has been a steady and great improvement in the condition of women as a result of inventive progress. Within the memory of persons who are not very old, the average woman's life was one of cheerless drudgery. Sixty or seventy years ago, there were comparatively few American families whose "women folks" did not do all the house-work without the aid of servants. It was hard work—brutally hard, we should call it in these days—for it was unrelieved by any of the varied appliances that have since been devised to facilitate or obviate it. And this tedious toil, including spinning, weaving, and churning, was performed in houses whose inmates had never heard or dreamed of the thousands of elegancies, luxuries, and comforts that are now within the easy reach of the "common people."

Then there were but two kinds of occupation open to our young women—house-work and school teaching—and the latter was accessible to but a limited number and at small compensation. When invention began to open up manufacturing industries, the area of women's work grew immensely. Then came the sewing machine, as great a blessing as if it had been handed down from the Great White Throne. Meantime, the progress of civilization brought about a better appreciation of women's value as teachers, and they began to supersede men in that great calling. Manufacturing industries, in which women had a place, multiplied rapidly between 1840 and 1860. Since that date the telephone, the typewriter, increased demands for stenographic clerks, and a constant advancement of correct notions of woman's place in the world, have opened avenues in which vast numbers of women and girls are usefully and happily employed. There are few occupations now to which women are strangers, and the condition of society is immeasurably improved by this multiplication of the employments of women. Greater than the influence of the school-master or the preacher, has been that of the inventor in bringing about the emancipation and elevation of the "better half" of the human family.—Inventive Age.

Habits of Courtesy.

A boy who is polite to his father and mother is likely to be polite to every one else. A boy lacking politeness to his parents may have the semblance of courtesy in society, but is never truly polite in spirit, and is in danger, as he becomes familiar, of betraying his real want of courtesy. We are in danger of living too much for the outside world, the impression which we make in society, coveting the good opinion of those who are in a sense part of ourselves, and who continue to sustain and be interested in us notwithstanding these defects of deportment and character. We say to every boy and every girl, cultivate habits of courtesy and propriety at home—in the sitting room and kitchen as well as in the parlor—and you will be sure in other places to deport yourself in a becoming and attractive manner.—Golden Moments.

SPRING PUDDING.—Boil one teacup of sago in enough water to absorb without making it too thin; slice four large sour apples in a pudding dish, sprinkle with sugar, pour the boiled sago over the apples, and bake in a moderate oven. Serve with sugar and cream.

When men are as good as their obituaries and women are as good as men think they are, the recording angel in heaven can take his long-needed vacation.

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- Porcelain ballot marbles, per hundred \$75. Secretary's ledger, 1 00. Secretary's record, 1 00. Treasurer's orders, bound, per hundred, 1 00.

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HORSE AND COW POWDER

Is of the highest value of horses, cattle, hogs, and poultry. It assists digestion and assimilation and thus converts feed into muscle, milk and fat which otherwise would be wasted.

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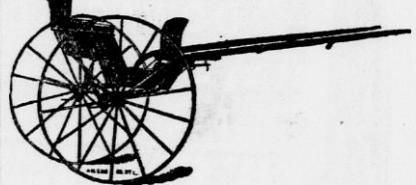
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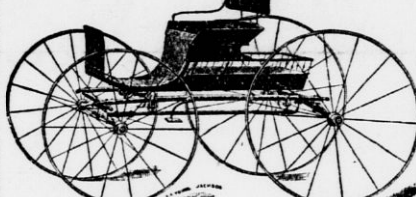
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Feb. 1, 1891.—Central Standard Time.

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SAVE HALF OR MORE AS WE SELL AT FACTORY PRICES AND SELECT FROM BEST FACTORIES ONLY. Pretty Patterns with Match Borders. 2 to 5c. per roll. Beautiful Gilt with Match Borders. 2 to 5c. per roll.

A Tap at the Door.

A hand tapped at my door, low down, low down; I opened it and saw two eyes of brown, Two lips of cherry red, A little curly head.

I tried to lift again, but all in vain, Of scientific thought the subtle chain, So small, so small, My learning all: Though I could call each star, and tell its place, My child's "Our Father" bridges the gulf of space.

Hints for Parlor Elocution.

Commence by reading aloud. To do this well is in itself worth a good deal of effort, and you need never be without an audience. Read the paper to father, in that half hour just before tea.

In reading, the voice should be pitched moderately low, but every word must be enunciated distinctly. Unless you are on your feet while reading, sit well back in your chair and keep the back straight.

In reading and elocution, as in singing, it is important to take breath in such places and in such quantities that the voice will remain full and round until the sense is complete.

Choose for public reading or speaking pieces suited to your voice and ability. Many a young elocutionist has come to grief and failure merely on account of a mistaken ambition.

The Whistling Boy.

If ever in the course of human events heaven blesses me with an heir of the small boy class, says a writer in the Louisville Post, I shall teach him to whistle early in his youthful career.

I never see a youngster with his hands shoved down in his pants pockets, his head thrown back, his cheeks swelled out like a pair of bellows and his puckered lips piping a jolly tune that I don't set that boy down as an innocent-hearted lad.

These are the works of a sly youngster with the averted eye and the soft tread, who is afraid to whistle lest he make a noise and attract attention. The whistling boy never makes the foot-pad or the cut-throat,

though he may never be president.

I can't help having my suspicions of the man who never learned to whistle in his youth. In nine cases out of ten he has a falsetto voice and a bad digestion, and his ideas on many points of morality are questionable.

The Sap of Trees.

A keen observer and ingenious experimentalist has been writing a book on "Sap: Does it Rise from the Roots?" a question which he proceeds to answer with a decided negative.

It is true that if we examine into the theory of plant growth as set down by botanists and biologists, we find that they disagree among themselves to an astonishing degree.

How the sap rises, whether by capillary attraction, endosmose, root pressure, suction or evaporation, or a combination of all (described by Professor Huxley as pulling, pushing and dumping), the greatest biologists, including Herbert Spencer, Sachs, Huxley, Darwin and others, have by no means been able to prove.

In reading and elocution, as in singing, it is important to take breath in such places and in such quantities that the voice will remain full and round until the sense is complete.

Choose for public reading or speaking pieces suited to your voice and ability. Many a young elocutionist has come to grief and failure merely on account of a mistaken ambition.

Make Brick from Sand.

The fancy and ornamental brick made from the dry sands of the lake without pressing, burning or mixing with clay, is what is puzzling scientists and ordinary and other people as well. Yet it is done daily in St. Joseph, Mich. Go to the yards and they will make a brick in less time than it takes to tell you.

It looks quite plain that pyramids were built out of the sand gathered on the spot, and by some process unknown to us converted to stone, where they stand a monument of what has been done.

The following are among Rural Life rules for bringing up a son: Make home the brightest and most attractive place on earth. Make him responsible for performance of a limited number of daily duties.

each have ordered brick to build for themselves private residences. There is considerable talk of building a pyramid of this brick at the World's Fair which will be a wonder to the people of all nations, taking into consideration the fact that it is nothing but the sand of the sea.

Education and Business.

Give all the years you can to study. A college education will make you a better blacksmith, a better farmer, a better carpenter. Other things being equal—natural ability, industry, ambition, tact, application—of two men, the college man will be the better equipped for any work in which he may engage.

One day last week I took a drive with a farmer up in "York State." He wore "tailor-made" clothes, kid gloves, long cuffs, swell collar and a high hat. He drove a stepper to a cart that made you feel proud and rich.

It stands to reason that the more a man knows the more sense he has, the better he is fitted for any position, except that of a petit juror.

Of course there are some boys whom you can't educate. There are some boys who can learn books by heart; who go to college and graduate; go to university and graduate; go to Europe and finish, and come home knowing so much less than they did when they went away that they are disqualified even for sitting on a coroner's jury.

It Does Not Pay.

A saloon-keeper sold a drinking man one pint of new rum, making fifteen cents clear profit. The man, under the influence of that pint of rum, killed his son-in-law; and his apprehension, confinement in jail, execution, etc., cost the county more than one thousand dollars—which temperate men had to earn by the sweat of their brow. It does not pay!

It does not pay to have the mother and children of twenty families dressed in rags, and starved into the semblance of emaciated scare crows, and living in hovels in order that the saloon-keeper's wife may dress in satin and her children grow fat and hearty, and live in a bay-window parlor.

It does not pay to have ten smart, intelligent boys turned into hoodlums and thieves to enable one man to lead an easy life by selling them liquor.—Plowman.

The following are among Rural Life rules for bringing up a son: Make home the brightest and most attractive place on earth. Make him responsible for performance of a limited number of daily duties. Never punish in anger. Do not ridicule his conceits, but rather talk frankly on the matters in which he has interest. Let him feel free to invite his friends to your home and table.

Notices of Meetings.

The next regular meeting of Newaygo County Pomona Grange No. 11 will be held with Hesperia Grange June 3 and 4, 1891. The following program will be presented for discussion: Unfinished part of last program.

Do we favor more stringent immigration laws?—L. Reinoldt. Can American agriculture be limited to the wants of American consumption?—W. J. Jewell.

Does the office of county superintendent of schools make our schools enough better to justify the people in paying him the salary he now receives?—W. W. Carter.

Recitation—W. C. Stuart. The farmer's wife: Her labors and rewards—Mrs. W. Robertson.

Ought a ten-hour husbandman have a sixteen-hour wife?—O. T. Blood.

Are the statistical duties of the supervisor beneficial to the farmer?—August White.

Paper—A. L. Scott. A cordial invitation is extended to all to meet with us and take part in the meeting.

W. C. STUART, Lect.

COLDWATER, Mich., May 7:—The next meeting of Branch County Pomona Grange will be held with Quincy Grange on Thursday May 28, 1891, at which time the following program has been arranged for:

Music. Welcome Address—Mrs. A. J. Warner.

Response—A. L. Smith. Paper—"Justice, and the necessity of organization." William Anderson.

Paper—"Moral, social and religious culture derived from object lessons." Mrs. G. C. Clizbe. Recitation—Mrs. H. G. McIntosh.

Paper—"The future of Branch county as a horse market, on what does it depend?" G. H. Wagner.

Paper—"The influence of young ladies upon their escorts." Mrs. L. B. Walsworth.

Paper—"Smut in wheat." H. G. McIntosh.

Paper—"My selection." Byron Bray.

Paper—"Reforms needed in society." Mrs. Joel Mack.

Paper—"Co-operation in business." W. A. Lott.

Paper—"The teacher of to-day as compared with twenty years ago." Thomas Sinclair.

Plenty of good music by the young people of Quincy.

The Granges of Branch county are in a flourishing condition.

Fraternalty yours WALLACE E. WRIGHT.

The second annual meeting of the Jackson County Farmers' Club will be held in the city of Jackson, at Knights of Labor hall, Wednesday, May 27, 1891, with the following programme:

MORNING SESSION—10 O'CLOCK. Singing; prayer; music; reading minutes; report of secretary; report of treasurer; miscellaneous business; election of officers; appointing committees.

AFTERNOON—1 O'CLOCK. Vocal music—Mrs. Wm. Russell, Napoleon.

President's address—R. D. M. Edwards.

Paper for Discussion—"Restoring and maintaining the Fertility of the Soil"—Hon. A. C. Glidden, Paw Paw. Discussion opened by T. B. Halladay, Norvell.

Solo—Mrs. W. W. Bissell, South Jackson.

Recitation—Mrs. May O'Leary, Columbia.

Essay—"Kitchen Poetry"—Mrs. C. H. Pike, South Jackson.

Five-minute speeches on the subject: "Is it advisable for farmers to run in debt?" Opened by Wm. West, of West Liberty, and W. E. Kennedy, of Liberty.

Essay—Miss Grace Elliott, of Napoleon.

Music; adjournment.

TALMADGE, Mich., May 7th.—The next session of Western Pomona Grange will be held at Tallmadge Grange hall, Thursday and Friday, May 28 and 29, in joint session with Kent Co. Pomona Grange.

The following subjects will be presented for discussion:

"The best rotation of crops to keep up the fertility of our farms."

"What advantages does the Grange offer young people."

"Has the farmers any real cause for complaint."

Music, essays, recitations etc., will be interspersed to complete to program.

MELVIN S. SMITH, Sec'y. Western Pomona.

Hillsdale County Grange will hold its next meeting with Wheatland Grange Thursday June 4th. Following is program for the day:

Essay—Mrs. E. D. Nokes. Recitation—Mabel Church.

Elect Music—Matie Hawley. Declamation—Arthur Taylor.

Recitation—Mina Tingley. Declamation—Eddie Davis.

Question for discussion. Do we need Foreign Labor and Foreign Capital in the United States—Opened by M. J. Davis, followed by J. M. Timms and others.

If time permits, an Intelligence Bureau will be considered and established in the County Grange, if it meets with favor by the Patrons.

J. E. WAGNER, Lect.

St. Joseph County Grange No. 4 will hold its next meeting with Centreville Grange, Thursday, June 4, at 10 a. m. All fourth degree members are cordially invited to attend.

MRS. D. B. PURDY, Sec'y.

Allegan County Council will meet with Trowbridge Grange on Tuesday, June 2. The program will be responded to as follows: Council called to order at 10 o'clock sharp.

Song by Trowbridge Grange choir. Reading of minutes of last meeting.

Business, if any; this will include subjects for discussion at the next meeting of the council or other suggestions for program, also time and place of meeting of the next session.

Essay or recitations left over from the previous meeting.

Financial legislation from '61 to '81—B. C. Palmer.

Music, vocal or instrumental. Dinner and social converse.

Music, followed by words of welcome from some member of Trowbridge Grange.

Response—Sister A. H. Moore, of Monterey Grange.

Address—President Amsden, of Wayland.

Outlook of the present agitation—N. W. Houser, of Watson.

Vocal duet—Flora Leggett and Glenn Miner, of Watson.

Woman as a constant grumbler—C. A. Jewett, of Allegan.

Essay—Sister Burnham, of Watson.

There will also be recitations interspersed, by Sisters Millie Jewett, Mabel Miner and Belle McAlpine.

To judge the future by the past, all who will take the trouble to attend can be assured of a pleasant entertainment, and the day profitably spent. All who know Trowbridge Grangers know them to be a hospitable family, and will give a cordial welcome to all.

MRS. N. A. DIBBLE, Lecturer C. Council.

Mamma (to her little boy). "Now, Bennie, if you'll be good and go to sleep mamma'll give you one of Dr. Ayer's nice sugar-coated Cathartic Pills, next time you need medicine." Benny, smiling sweetly, dropped off to sleep at once.

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scrofulous humor in the blood, ulcers, catarrh, and consumption, use

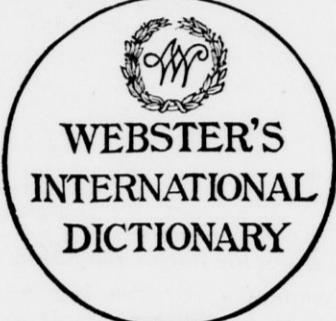
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Has Cured Others will cure you.

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G. & C. MERRIAM & CO., Publishers, Springfield, Mass., U. S. A. Caution!—There have recently been issued several cheap reprints of the 1847 edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, an edition long since superannuated. These books are given various names,—"Webster's Unabridged," "The Great Webster's Dictionary," "Webster's Big Dictionary," "Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary," etc., etc.

Many announcements concerning them are very misleading, as the body of each, from A to Z, is 44 years old, and printed from cheap plates made by photographing the old pages.

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For those who wish to prepare for teaching or take Business or Short Hand course, will open JULY 6, at

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1 32 P. M.—Has Free Chair Car to Grand Rapids, connecting with 5:05 P. M. Free Chair Car to Manistee, via M. & N. E. R. R.

8 11 P. M.—Wagner Buffet Car to Grand Rapids. 11 30 A. M.—Free Chair Car to Chicago. 2 53 P. M.—Wagner Buffet Car to Chicago. Wagner Sleeping Cars on night trains to Chicago and Grand Rapids.

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Finer effects can be produced for the same money with Alabastine than with wall paper.

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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This was the first SHOE DRILL manufactured, and the present PERFECTED DRILL is the result of 22 years' experience and study to brain the most perfect device for forming and covering drill furrows. As a result of this study and experience we now confidently place before the public

The Lightest Draft Drill, The Most Simple, Practical and Effective Drill, and the Most Durable Drill

In the market. It does not clog; it does not turn up sods; it does put the grain in at even depths on all soils, and it pleases everybody.

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A \$90 BUGGY FOR \$70!

Here is the opportunity you have been looking for. A stylish, durable top buggy, painted in lead and oil, no dip finish. The buggy has been thoroughly tested for over ten years on all kinds of roads and in all kinds of service. Its easy riding qualities and adaptability to roads has been fully demonstrated.

The demand for a good side-spring buggy has been gradually growing for several years, and there have been several new springs put on the market in consequence. The most of these have proved failures, the construction being such that there was no chance for the side-spring to lengthen when loaded, hence the motion was short and sharp, or the gear was thrown out of "track." In the "Wolverine" these objections are avoided. There are four springs which are put together in such manner that each is allowed full play without straining any part of the gear. It has a wrought iron fifth wheel, clip kingbolt, and a double reach. Every buggy should have a well braced reach to make it keep in "track."

The GRANGE VISITOR has made arrangements with the manufacturer, Arthur Wood, of Grand Rapids, to sell to subscribers to this paper the above buggy at a price within the reach of every farmer who needs a buggy. We have examined every part of the works, and stake the reputation of the VISITOR on the good qualities of every job. A two-horse two-seated wagon with three springs, just right to take the family to church, for \$55.00.

Hear what those say who have used them:

After using one two years, Dr. H. H. Power, of Saranac, writes as follows: "There is nothing to compare with the 'Wolverine' for ease, comfort and durability."

COLDWATER, Mich., April 24th, 1891—Some years ago I purchased two single buggies of Arthur Wood, of Grand Rapids, and found them to be strong and durable. They have been in use eight or ten years, and have proved to be satisfactory in all respects.

PAW PAW, May 1st, 1891—In 1875 I purchased an open buggy of Arthur Wood. It has been in constant use since and promises several years service. I have now ordered one of the Wolverine top buggies on the reputation they sustain for excellence, workmanship and durability. J. C. GOULD.

Send the money to the editor of this paper, and the buggy will be sent direct from the factory.