

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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"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.

Farmers' Organizations.

Paper read by N. J. Moore before the Moscow Grange, February 5, 1892.

That there is need of farmers combining in their own interests, no one of sound judgment will deny.

This feeling has been in existence since before the Grange was first inaugurated, about a quarter of a century ago; but never has it been felt by the farming masses as it has for the last five years. This is proven by the fact that there have been so many organizations for the farmer, all of which, perhaps, have done much good. The P. of I. for instance, which was in the bloom of prosperity about two years ago, did much good and might have been a thriving institution to-day had it not been for a few would-be party leaders, who could not let it grow into strength by a natural and legitimate process, hence its death—for it is virtually dead as a farmers' organization. To be sure some are still breathing, or rather gasping, in a few localities, but dying very rapidly. And shall we not soon pronounce the same fate to the Farmers' Alliance? We find that it is dying in many localities.

Some may ask what is the reason of these societies which have made such fungus growths being so short lived. We would say in answer that it is a very hard hard matter to unite the farmers, who are composed of members of all political parties and all manner of beliefs, to any party, to be shifted here and there as party leaders may dictate. The only way in my mind in which it can be done, is to have a party for the farmers, and by the farmers, and let it live and grow upon its own merits, and not by coalition with any party whatever.

It is the history of all political parties, that when a weaker party unites with one stronger, for mere political gain, regardless of its own principles,—just so soon you may write as its epitaph—"Died for lack of courage to stand alone."

This is one reason why the Grange to-day is on so sound a basis, while her sisters have wasted away. She is, also, composed of members of all parties; but the Grange was not organized as a political party. It is contrary to the constitution of the order, hence its members can work together upon questions of mutual benefit without there being political friction. The Grange has been in existence long enough to establish the certainty of its perpetuity. To be sure it has suffered in many localities from the lack of vigor and punctuality of its members; but, nevertheless its members understand its benefits when they are awake to their own interests.

We would say that there are many benefits arising from a Grange, carried on in a proper manner. It is a school to all of its members. Farmers cannot assemble and discuss the different modes of farming and different results obtained without being benefitted thereby. There is

no one that knows it all. We are all students in God's great universe, and live questions lie all around us awaiting solution.—There are many questions for the farmer to answer for himself, and no one will answer them for him. Among these are free mail delivery, the tariff on imported commodities that compete with the production of our farms, the temperance question, and many others. One that is by no means least in importance is the question of regulating foreign immigration, in which the farmer and every true American citizen should be interested. Tens of thousands are pouring into this country from all quarters of the globe—Castle Garden alone receiving over 500,000 annually. Among these are some who come here to become citizens, and will make good ones. But we also find that we are getting the paupers of the other countries, the fugitives from justice and the uneducated, not knowing even the nature of the laws of our country or the principles on which they were founded. They come here to breed riots, anarchism, disloyalty and kindred evils. A great many of these flock to our cities, so that is almost impossible for a city government to enforce liquor laws or any other laws of an elevating nature. Our ballot boxes are stuffed with the votes of these fellows who care but little about what men are elected to office—the party giving the biggest bonus or granting to them the greatest number of infernal privileges, is the party that captures the larger portion of these votes. We are taxed to pay for the trial and imprisonment of these imported criminals and our lives are constantly menaced by the followers of the red flag of anarchism.

Another tremendous evil is the transactions on the different boards of trade. Supply and demand, and not boards of trade, should regulate the price of farm produce. We find that of the thousands of millions of bushels of wheat contracted to be delivered in Chicago last September, only 50,000,000 were actually delivered. Hence a fictitious supply is represented to the public, which is doing an injustice to the producer and has a tendency to depress the price of wheat.

The Grange should be alive to all these questions, and when she is, she will be in readiness to act intelligently. We have the right to petition our law-makers, and when the Grange is alive to its duties and privileges, it will be heard from by legislators, and the voice of the farmer is not to be ignored.

But a few years ago it was not considered necessary to have a Secretary of Agriculture to look after the interests of the farmer, but the need was recognized, and now we have a member of the President's cabinet interested in our welfare.

As farmers become more educated regarding their needs and interests and what lies in wait for them, they will be ready to act.—The Grange has been the means of accomplishing much in the way of legislation already, but there are many inequalities in the laws of our land that she can and ought to labor to have corrected.

We would say that there is too much growling and complaining by many farmers. We are not sufficiently thankful for what we receive. We find too much fault with our surroundings. Some

people are nearly always complaining about hard times. Let us do less of this and have more of the "gets there" quality, and we will find that we can better our condition materially.

The Liberty Farmers' Club.

The February meeting of the Club was entertained at "Pioneer Jersey Farm," the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Dunn, on Saturday, Feb. 6th.

There were the usual opening exercises, followed by reading of the constitution. Article four was amended so as to add a chorister to the list of officers. Mr. Leaman Choate was elected to fill that position, and R. D. M. Edwards was chosen financial agent.

A very interesting letter to the club from C. P. Hammond, who is spending the winter in Florida, was read and greatly enjoyed.

Miss Lucy Choate gave a fine recitation, "Grandma's Sermon."

The subject for discussion, "Would free coinage of silver be beneficial to the American people?" was opened by R. D. M. Edwards, who endeavored to treat the subject fairly, state facts, laying aside political prejudice and party coloring. Said he: What we want as farmers is to understand for ourselves the issues now before the people, and as far as possible what would be the result if they should become law. What do the advocates of this measure ask? In plain terms that Congress shall pass a bill so that any one having a piece, bar, plate, or silver in any shape uncoined, (usually known as silver bullion), can take or send it to the United States mint and the government be obliged, without cost to the individual, to coin it into silver dollars and return to the owner all the dollars or a government silver certificate for a corresponding amount. I have not been able to ascertain from any reliable source who would be expected to furnish the copper, but from the general tenor of what is asked for, I suppose the government would. If both the gold and silver dollars of the standard weight would pass for a dollar through the commercial world, and all nations would make each the standard unit of their currency, there could be but little objection to the unlimited coinage of silver under a proper law providing for the cost of coinage; and so the profit, if any, would go to the government, not to a few individuals. But this is not the case, and probably never will be. At present, in other nations, silver bullion is only worth 80 cents as compared to the coined dollar. The director general of the mint, in his annual report of 1880, says: "The United States could not, single-handed, among the commercial nations, with no European co-operation or allies, sustain the value of silver from the inevitable fall; hence we cannot without serious embarrassment continue the coinage of silver unless other commercial nations will agree upon the general use of silver as well as gold." We can readily see from this that if free coinage of silver should continue for a length of time in the United States, we would find ourselves possessed of a surplus of silver dollars that would not circulate or sell or pass in foreign countries at their par value, leaving on our hands a depreciated currency, which always is equivalent to a declining credit, lower prices, duller times and a general financial crisis. That a bi-metallic standard can be established among the nations of the

world, seems to be impossible from the result of the monetary congress held in 1878, and again in 1880, but nothing definite could be accomplished; they could not agree. Free coinage for the individual would increase the value of his silver (provided he used his dollars in the United States) from 10 to 20 cents on every dollar coined, the increase being according to the world's market value of silver bullion—say on an average of 15 cents on the dollar. This certainly would be a benefit to those fortunate enough to have the silver to be coined. But who are they? A few shrewd, rich, mine-owners. But how about the rest of us? Have we the silver, or can we get the mines? And, though the coinage would be free to the individual, yet it costs to coin silver, and under a free coinage act the total amount of cost would be very great. This expense, brother farmers, you and I must help to pay, which would not be fair or right unless we received some benefit from it. Everything which adds to the expense of the government some one must pay, (the expense of sub-treasuries, government loan offices and agents not excepted). I know of but three ways that the expenses of the government has been paid, or probably will be. By duties on imports, internal revenue, and direct tax. If by duties on imports, that is a tariff. All articles made higher by the tariff, we pay the excess in price towards defraying the expenses of the government. Those that are not made higher, the foreign producer pays the amount of the tariff, and we are relieved of paying so much government expense. If by internal revenue, it is all paid by citizens of the United States. If by direct tax, all that have property that can be found when the assessor comes around pays it. We farmers can't put our farms, horses and cattle in our pockets; they'll be found. The advocates of free coinage claim that the low price of silver is because of its demonetization by all the great nations, including our own; that to establish free coinage will bring its value up to a practical parity with gold, will add to the circulation, increase the price of labor and of the commodities we have to sell, and thus be a benefit to the whole people. We have shown that the United States alone cannot maintain the value of silver on a parity with gold by any coinage act so long as other nations will only use it at its bullion value. As to the increase of circulation, as all the silver dollars coined belong to those having them coined, how can anyone else get them? I affirm only by borrowing them of him or selling him something. Possibly having received 15 cents profit on every dollar coined, he might think he ought and could afford to give some of them away. Do you think he would? Would he pay more for a day's work, hire more men, or pay more for a bushel of wheat? If he would not, I cannot see how anybody but himself would be benefitted by this coinage act. He would deposit his money in the banks and the banks would loan it out, and thereby increase the circulation. But would he direct the bank to loan it at three or four per cent, or at any less interest than before the passage of the coinage act? Brother farmers, let us consider this matter carefully, thoroughly, honestly. Let us know who is asking for the passage of such an act, and why;

who it will benefit; how it will affect the credit of our country; how its relations with other nations; how its finances; what will it do for me? Settle these questions, then vote according to your honest convictions.

William West.—The paper lays great stress upon the idea that the silver is owned by miners, and that its free coinage would make them richer, but he does not say a word about demonetizing silver. What would you think of me as a business man if I had two kinds of money to use, yet I would say I will pay my debts in gold? What kind of a business man would I be, anyway? That is what the government has done. First they said they would pay the debt in greenbacks; then in any kind of money; afterwards we will pay it in gold. Silver was a bond-paying money, now let them take it. Free coinage will add to the money in the country; the more money we have in circulation, the more it will buy of our produce. President Harrison says there never was a time when a dollar would buy so much as it will to-day. That is the trouble. A dollar will buy too much of our produce. They tell of gold being the standard! Has gold appreciated, or silver depreciated? It seems to me as proper to say one has appreciated as that the other has depreciated. At the time silver was demonetized it was three per cent premium. If you take away the money value of the two metals they would not be worth digging from the ground. I am favor of greenbacks—let us have all. France has the bi-metallic standard, and she has more silver dollars in her vaults than Germany, England and the United States. They are a thrifty, industrious, prosperous people.

Mr. Edwards—Who will furnish the alloy? This is an important point; for if the government has to furnish it, it will be expensive. When our gold and silver coins are taken in other countries, they are weighed and taken as bullion.

Mr. West did not know who was to furnish it.

A. W. Dunn—This has seemed too ponderous a subject for us to attempt, when great men, conversant with financial matters, do not agree; but if we can help them out, we will be glad to do so. As to gold appreciating, or silver depreciating, in my mind a simple illustration is like this: Two years ago potatoes were worth \$1.00 per bushel; last fall they were worth 25 cents. Were they appreciated at one time and depreciated at the other? It was over-production. Silver was coming in greatly in excess of previous times, hence the difference in value. Read from speeches of John J. Knox bearing upon this subject, showing it to be impracticable; that the cost of coining \$100,000,000 is \$2,000,000, and that the system of buying bullion and issuing certificates is more economical.

Mr. Wilcox—Mr. Dunn's illustration seems strong to me. Flood the country with the production of silver, and it would not be worth anything.

J. S. Choate—I am not a free coinage man. I believe the government should have unlimited power to coin as they see fit.

President W. C. Kennedy—You will readily see that this is the greatest financial subject ever agitating this people. I have given it considerable thought, and conclude that it would be

(Continued on 5th page.)

Making Farm Help Pay.

In any other business than farming nobody expects to become wealthy merely by the labor of his own hands. The large profits of tradesmen and manufacturers are almost invariably due to profits gained by the employment of labors of others. To do this it is essential that the employer shall be able by investment of capital to earn more for those he hires than without his help they could earn for themselves. It is hard for a man without capital to give himself employment all the time. What he earns while working is consumed during his times of enforced idleness because he can find nothing to do. It is part of the duty of the capitalist employer of labor to provide some profitable employment for his working men at times when without his aid they could not get anything to do. If he does not attend to this part of his duty he must not be surprised when the more active and enterprising of his workmen seek more permanent employment elsewhere.

This is part, though by no means the full explanation of the increasing difficulty in getting faithful, industrious and intelligent farm help. Another cause has all along been in operation in the drain to practically free lands in the west of all who had secured money enough to live a few months, and many who took up homesteads without even that security for the future. Buying everything on credit, they staked not merely their own all, but all that their creditors would loan them to the hazard of the first one or two crops. If these were good both parties came through safely. The money lender, understanding the risk, charged what would seem extortionate profits. But in years of crop failure the money lender lost so heavily that in the end many were obliged to sacrifice part of their capital to get the immediate use of what they saved. As a whole, the business of setting up homesteaders who had no capital to begin with has not been profitable to either party. While a few have made large profits, thousands more have earned less than they would have done had they remained east and worked equally hard and suffered equal privations.

This competition with Eastern farming, always unnatural, is no longer possible. All the good farming land in the west is now held at prices that require a considerable capital to make a farmer owner in fee of a quarter section of land. He may still run in debt, and heavily, too, but money lenders, taught by experience, will no longer advance money beyond the amounts the farmer himself invests. This changed situation in the west must necessarily have an important effect upon eastern farming. Its direct result will be to keep in the East thousands who, under the old conditions, would be attracted to the west. It is becoming more difficult to begin farming wholly without capital, and this will prove the best possible result that could occur for farmers everywhere.

It will probably be easier the coming few years for Eastern farmers to hire good help than it has been lately. But if they would keep it for any length of time they must learn some means of providing work with pay through the whole year. It has been the inability of working men to find winter employment in the country that has made good help scarce. Gardeners who are able to provide work through the year do not suffer for lack of help, and as a rule they secure men who are more active and intelligent than those who hire out for ordinary farm work through the summer. It is not possible for all farmers to become market gardeners, but there are many ways in which work can be provided that will keep men and teams employed so as at least to earn a living and something besides. So far as we have observed, gardeners and others who employ help in the winter pay low wages. Most of them make a contract to hire by the year, and it is found that men assured of steady employment in winter are much more ready to hire at moderate wages during

the busier summer season.—American Cultivator.

Measuring Fields in Winter.

Every successful farmer should know the size of his fields, as well as the distances which he has to drive or travel in his daily work. And one of the cheapest improvements which the owner of a farm can make is to learn the area of every field, and the distance of every field from his farm buildings. Unless he knows the number of acres in a field, he cannot apportion accurately the seed he sows in it, the manure he applies to it, the labor required to cultivate it, and the amount of the crop which he should expect from it, or the value of the amount reaped and what it has cost him.

Owners often make considerable mistakes in estimating the area of their fields. They should measure them in winter, when there happens to be a light snow on the ground. The ground is then frozen hard and is easily passed over, and the task is then less impeded by weeds and crops. Small measuring sticks, with a red woolen yarn or cord attached to the upper end, are quickly seen by the measurers as they pass over the surface. It will not be necessary to observe the same rigid accuracy as in measuring a high-priced farm in selling it. A tape-line will answer a good purpose. An oiled cord, measured and marked at regular distances with red yarn, will be useful on many occasions. A light rod or pole, 11 feet long, will often be found convenient for smaller areas, as a potato patch in the corner of a corn-field, or a kitchen garden. Three lengths of the pole will make exactly two rods.

A little practice will enable the farmer to pace his land, or measure certain plowed portions in a day, or certain distances on the farm. His first trial will be inaccurate or blundering; but let him select some measured distance, and repeatedly count the paces over it, and with some practice he will soon be able to measure distances in this easy and rapid way with surprising accuracy.

Means, Ability and Land.

I have been interested in articles on large or small farms, but one very important point I have seen brought out but once, and that, I think, was about three years ago, by Mr. Geo. Q. Dow—the means at one's disposal.

We may have great ability, but if we are short of means, how can we be very successful? Nine out of ten of the farmers that I know, I am sure, are trying to work more land than their means will allow them to do full justice to. Most of us try to work all the land we can get over, seeming to think the more profit we shall have, but careful thought will show that the most clear money is in making the largest crops per acre. Most of us, in the end, would make far more clear money if we should put the same thought, work and manure on one-fourth the land we are now cultivating, and finding ourselves unable to attend to anything as it ought to be done. Each has a certain amount of means; it may belong to us, to others, or to both. This amount will go just so far. If we try to stretch it we are sure to find holes through which the profits slip. I know men who are trying to work large farms with only means enough for small ones. Some of them I feel sure have ability enough if they only had means enough, but as it is, they are slowly but surely going behind, and unless they make their business correspond with their means, will in time lose what they now have.

I believe that small farms usually pay best, because as a rule the small leaks are stopped on them better. On large farms these small leaks (some not so very small, either) are usually considered not of much consequence, but when we come to put them together we find a large hole in our profits. Let any one think over this and he will find leaks enough to surprise him. We shall find that farmers who are crying "farming don't pay" either have not the means, or the ability, or may-be lack both, but

by far the most are trying to spread too much. We shall also find that, almost without exception, where a farmer has sufficient means and ability for his business, even if he is working but one acre, farming not only does pay, but pays better than almost any other business requiring no more means. I know of an acre, no better than most land except that it has been made very rich, which pays one year more than most farms of one hundred acres. Where a man has means and ability sufficient for a large farm, I think he can make it pay better (for means invested) but such men are comparatively scarce.

To make farming pay we must stop the leaks referred to, large or small, and the more successfully we do this the greater our profits will surely be. Most of us have leaks that we hardly know how to stop best. To find out how to do this we must use all the helps that come in our way. One of the principal helps is thoughtful reading of the agricultural press. Another, and one that comparatively few of us avail ourselves of, is the agricultural experiment stations. They not only issue bulletins of their work, but any farmer wanting light on any farm matter, if he writes to or visits them, will get all the help they can give—all of which is free to the farmers of the State that station represents. Opposition to "book farming" is giving way as fast as new ways generally gain ground, for which let us be duly thankful. With more knowledge of our business is sure to follow better work, and consequently more profit. Now had we not better, all of us, see that our business is not larger than our ability or means?—J. F. in Country Gentleman.

Clover Growing.

R. A. Brown, Sand Beach, Mich., writes Orange Judd Farmer: No matter what constitutes the soil or its "lay"—clover will grow very successfully if there is any plant food left to start vegetation and keep it alive long enough to bring forth its seed. The Mammoth, Red or June, and Alsike clovers are the main species. Clovers are biennials (taking two years to germinate and come to maturity). But by constant cutting or grazing to prevent its maturity, it may be kept alive for an indefinite number of years. As soon as the clover plant fills its mission of producing seed it dies; but it has such peculiar tenacity of life, that if prevented from maturing it will cling to life beyond its natural time.

IT IS A MISTAKE

to keep clover longer than the second year. After that, the plant has so lost its strength that it will not be profitable. Better way is to cut it after seeding, or plow it under. Many farmers suppose that in ripening its seed the soil is much impoverished, but such is not the case. Clover has a long deep tap root, often found ten feet down in the soil, and those long roots bring fertility to the surface of the soil which is only deposited there as the seed ripens. To ripen clover seed in sufficient quantities, is one of the great problems to the farmer. The mammoth clover ripens its seed with the first cutting; so will the Alsike, but in this region many farmers have cut the red or June clover in the last week in June or first week in July, and let the plant grow the second time until September or October to ripen its seed. This plan was successfully carried on here always until a few years ago, when the clover midge infested the plants. The fields are now pastured until the first or second week in June. Then the plant is allowed to mature. This brings the ripening period on before the midge infests the blossoms.

TWO TO TEN BUSHELS PER ACRE ARE PROCURED,

and prices rule from four to six dollars a bushel. Success in clover growing depends more on the dryness of the soil than anything else. Wet soil is death to profits. The roots of clover grow so deep that surface drainage is of little account unless the ground is sufficiently elevated to cause the water to run away quickly in

the furrows. We find it preferable to either cut the growth off about five or six inches in August or September, or feed it off with stock, not too closely, leaving just enough to cover the plants from thawing out too easily with a day's sun, where it freezes again at night. If too much top is left, the plants are liable to get smothered, being beaten down by and held there with a heavy fall of snow, they then decay about the surface and die.

What Cash Taxes Did.

I have noted with interest the articles you have published on the subject of country roads. I have been a farmer in the town of Lisle, DuPage county, Ill., for 50 years. Much of that time I have suffered the discomforts and disabilities of the Illinois mud, and I fully appreciate the great improvement we have made, and, with your permission, I propose to tell your readers how we have solved this most important problem:

Nine years ago at our annual town meeting we passed a resolution that we would pay our road tax in money. Then we passed a resolution to the effect that on any mile of road in the township, when the parties interested would by subscription pay one-third of the expense of graveling, the town would by tax pay the other two-thirds. The resolution further set forth that six cubic yards of gravel should be used per rod; the road bed to be eight feet wide, and the gravel thoroughly raked as delivered—the coarser gravel raked to the bottom, the fine on top.

We find that a road made in this way costs an average of \$900 per mile. The cost, of course, depends on the distance the gravel has to be hauled. Thorough search developed in our town (as I think it might in many others) gravel beds in different parts of the town quite convenient.

We went to work under these resolutions. The first year we made two and-a-half miles, beginning at the township center—the subscription being helped by the business men of the town. At the end of the year the people were so much pleased with the result that they were glad to go on in this way, and now, at the end of nine years, we have more than twenty miles of excellent roads in the township—roads on which heavy loads can be moved in any weather, and over which it is a comfort to ride. The first road made nine years ago has never had, or needed, one dollar in repairs.

The example is contagious and other towns about us are moving in the same direction. The danger is, people will try to make a little gravel go over too much ground. Put on six cubic yards to the rod, and you have a permanent road. There is no hardship about paying the tax. The farmers can put their men and teams on the road to pay their tax, but they must do an honest day's work of 10 hours, as they would if they worked for a railroad corporation.

The township is grateful to Hon. Wm. King, who devised this system and carried it successfully through in spite of earnest opposition, and who took off his coat and personally supervised and built the first of our gravel roads.—A. S. Barnard, in Farmers' Review.

The January and February reports of the Department of Agriculture are as follows:

Farm Animals—The annual estimates of farm animals, indicate an increase of each kind, 3 to 4 per cent of sheep, swine, and horses, about 2 per cent in cattle, and scarcely 1 per cent in mules.

A slight increase in value appears in store cattle and bees, sheep and swine, a decline of 1 per cent in the price of cows, 2 per cent in horses and, 3 in mules.

In Texas, Georgia, and South Carolina the value of horses is well sustained. In most of the Southern States there is a decline. In the Ohio Valley the reduction is greater than in the northern tier of States. Prices of the Rocky Mountain herds are also lower.

Prices of cows are somewhat higher in New England, Virginia,

North Carolina, and Georgia, with decline in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. There is little change in the States of the Ohio Valley, but some reduction in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Values of other cattle have slightly improved in New England and in several of the central States of the West, while declining a little in some of the States of the Northwest. The increase in value of sheep, though not locally equal, is very general throughout the country.

How and What to Feed.

With a variety of hay, corn-fodder, corn, oats, meal and middlings, such as are to be found on every farm, some are puzzled as to how to judiciously feed them. These foods make a good assortment for horses and cows. If the hay and fodder is fed dry, I prefer to feed the grain separate from it. A good feed for a horse or cow is hay cut short and moistened with salt water, then the grain ration of meal and middlings sprinkled on and mixed in. A horse should have less hay and more grain in proportion than a cow.

For horses, I like nice sweet hay, given at least twice a day, and all they will eat up clean, or about 10 or 12 pounds each. Add to this the grain ration in two or three different feedings, as you may prefer. There is nothing better for horses than oats. In cold weather corn may be added, but I prefer not to feed it in warm weather if oats are abundant. The quantity of grain for a horse should depend upon his work, and will range from 8 to 14 pounds of oats per day, no matter what kind of coarse feed is used. If the horse is working hard, he can be fed as much as 14 pounds of oats per day to advantage. This means about the same number of quarts. Corn is heavier, and must be fed in much less bulk. There is no objection to feeding whole corn to horses, but I should not like to give more than 10 or 12 pounds per day. A good plan would be to feed the dry corn or oats, or the two mixed, twice a day, followed by hay, and then at night the cut feed above recommended. In this way you would use four or five lbs. of grain at each meal, when given alone, and from two to four lbs. of meal or middlings (or of the two mixed) sprinkled upon the moist cut hay for the evening meal.

Cows require more bulky food. Give them once a day all the corn-fodder they will eat, cut to one inch in length, and once a day all the good hay they will eat. For grain, oats are good but expensive, and you will hardly use them much for cows. Use instead a mixture of about equal weights of corn meal and middlings. Of this the cows should have two feeds a day of from 4 to 6 lbs. at each feed, if they are in full flow of milk. If I had no middlings or bran, I would certainly have corn and cob ground together, and feed cob meal rather than clear corn and hay.

Horses and mules masticate corn very thoroughly, so that it is well digested, but cattle often do not. While I might feed whole corn to horses, I should certainly have it ground and use the meal for cows.—H. E. Alvord, Director Maryland Experiment Station.

The publishers of The Century Magazine have issued a pamphlet entitled "Cheap Money," containing the articles on Cheap-Money Experiments which have been appearing in "Topics of the Time" of The Century during the past year or more. Single copies 10 cents each, post-paid. [We have made liberal selections from these papers and our readers may want to see all of them. If so, the opportunity is here presented.—Ed.]

Satisfied.

MONTGOMERY Co., Pa. Feb. 1st, 1892. Mr. O. W. Ingersoll:—Dear Sir: Your Liquid Rubber Paints manufactured in Brooklyn, N. Y., which have been used for years past here, have given universal satisfaction to the consumers. I recommend them to all, and wish you every success.

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Free Mail Delivery.

(Read before Van Buren Co. Pomona Grange at Lawrence, Feb. 11, 1892.)

That the subject of free mail delivery in rural districts demands our careful consideration no one will deny. The fact that it is advocated by the Postmaster General, and has received the attention of the National Grange and the endorsement of most of the State Granges, indicates a wide-spread interest in the measure. The advocates of this proposition will find much difficulty in over-coming preconceived opinions as to the advantages that would accrue to those it is intended to benefit. Radical change in time-honored customs are not usually met with favor by the majority. Farmers, especially are apt to be conservative and, as long as old methods will do, seldom sanction an innovation. The moneyed interests involved will be to them a formidable feature, accustomed as they are to count the cost first before enumerating the profits of any project. Most of them, however, are aware that the world is moving, and they are endeavoring to press forward in the line of progression, and are no longer willing to be counted as a class that test everything by the rule of dollars and cents, but rather as endorsing all that adds to the convenience and comforts of farm life. In 1887 the Post-office Department was self-supporting for the first time in its history, and this was done even with 100,000 government officials having the franking privilege. The increase in population and business has always resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of letters and papers carried, while the cost has not enlarged in the same ratio.

Owing to the business depression of the past few years, and the exclusion of the lottery and other objectionable matter from the mails, a deficit has again been caused which it is expected will be speedily reduced.

Although it is desirable to have our postal service self-supporting the fact that it is not so should deter no one from advocating improvement in the same. The army or the navy are not self-supporting, yet soldiers are pensioned, regardless of the millions it costs, and to the navy vessels are added as fast as they can be constructed, at an expense of nearly four millions of dollars each, and no harm is done as long as the revenues from imports, land sales and coinage profits supplies the means to meet all these demands. What matters it, then, if an appropriation is necessary to extend free mail delivery in the rural districts? It is called a wild, chimerical idea by some, but we know most great improvements have been treated as visionary when first introduced to the public.

We have, however, demonstrations of the merits of this measure in India. That country is far ahead of us in the postal service. Frequent and free distribution of mail is everywhere provided for, and parcels not exceeding seven pounds can be cheaply sent with it to every home in the country. Some countries in Europe also have this service, and between Paris and Berlin distance is abridged by the pneumatic carrier, so that letters and small merchandise are only 35 minutes in transit.

Our postal affairs are of vital moment to us and a wise augmentation of the benefits they now confer should be strongly contested for. The last report of the Postmaster General records 44,263 post-offices out of the 63,339 we have that absorbed, or more than absorbed, all the receipts of the offices for the postmasters' salaries. While they may not be overpaid, they are a very expensive part of the service. Now, under the carrier system many could be dispensed with, and less labor required of those retained. The arduous part of postoffice work is done at the general delivery window, answer-

ing applicants for mail. The oft iterated query, "Is there anything for me?" is seldom satisfied with the simple "no" that must greet the greater part of them. They are sure that the expected letter is in the office somewhere, and the postmaster must look over the letters to appease them. The mail of a large district could be prepared for messengers in far less time than it now takes to distribute the contents of a fourth class office. Reduction of postage cannot be achieved apart from free mail delivery in rural districts. It is in the rural districts that the postmaster's pay comes from the sale of stamps, and penny postage would close every one of them, unless they are salaried. If roads ran transversely through a township, a mile apart, it would only make 72 miles; three carriers taking one route out and another back would cover it in a day, at a cost not greatly exceeding a first class postmaster's salary. The justice cannot too soon be recognized of extending to those whose strength has produced the wealth of this nation, the same service that has proved so beneficial to urban districts.

The matter becomes of more and more importance as the rural population advance in culture and refinement, and it is reasonable to suppose that the expenditures would soon be reimbursed by the growing receipts the improved condition would facilitate. With the proposed service, daily newspapers would be in the reach of every farmer, and beside the general information he would glean from them, the market reports would be invaluable to him. They would help him to fathom the mysteries of traffic and prepare him for the mercantile part of his business.

Losses frequently occur from farmers not being well informed in regard to the value of a commodity and he sells for ten or fifteen per cent. below the market price, only to find that on the sale of a single product a sum had been lost that would have bought some long coveted implement, or gladden the heart of his wife with that new carpet she had so patiently waited for. As long as farmers have not this method of keeping posted in regard to the markets he is liable to be continually deceived, and his efforts to better his condition by raising fruit, grain or stock often avail him but little—only serving to enrich some better informed speculator. Great advantages could be derived from free mail delivery in rural districts in the season when the entire force is in demand to secure crops. Small parcels could be sent for and obtained in this manner and much valuable time, at small cost, be saved.

The life of a farmer is an isolated one. There is no choice about it. Broad fields and extensive pastures are indispensable to their success. Their labors are far away from the stir and rush of town life and apart from the social influences so necessary to preserve a proper balance in the intellect and affections. After they have gathered to themselves as many of the refinements of life as other callings of equal means present, find they are not sufficient to keep their young people in the safety and sanctity of home and, with regret, see them risk the perils of city life for its superior advantages. Farms grow longer and broader, and our cities are rapidly increased by the depletion of the rural districts. Something should be done to check this tendency that threatens to be disastrous to the nation's welfare. Free mail delivery in rural districts may not do it all, but it would be a long step in the right direction. It would contribute vastly to the convenience and cheer of farm life; it would facilitate social intercourse, stimulate mental activity, and give us "A fuller life with nobler purpose fraught." It would bring to rural homes a

daily glimpse of the great world outside, in the form of newspapers, letters and messages that would brighten like gleams of sunshine all the day, and hasten the time when it will be both popular and profitable to live in the country.

MRS. SAM'L BUSKIRK.

Address of Welcome.

(Read by E. W. Johnson, Master of Crystal Grange, Dec. 4, 1891, at the 25th Anniversary of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.)

Sisters and Brothers of the Plow:

To-day marks a quarter century of the existence of the grand Order of Patrons of Husbandry. To-day we, as members of Crystal Grange having lain aside our several duties on the farm, meet you and each other here in social converse with greetings, feeling our duty to the Grange, a pleasant one in honoring and celebrating this important and memorable event in its history, in giving the farmer a chance for independence and a Grange to the world. To-day, all over the United States as well as in our beloved state of Michigan, our sister and brother Patrons are meeting in their halls and places of meeting with their neighbors and friends to also honor the day on which O. H. Kelley, Wm. Saunders and others launched their little craft 25 yrs. ago, bearing this inscription: "Patrons of Husbandry via Washington to all parts of the globe, wishing and hoping that the little craft would make a long and successful voyage."

To-day words of welcome and good cheer will be spoken—joyous songs will be sung, and temporal and intellectual feasts be spread. Imitating their example it is a duty for me, as a Master and chosen representative of this Grange, in their behalf to bid you, one and all, a hearty welcome. Many of you have met with us on former occasions of this character, and we were pleased, gratified, and entertained by your presence and to-day, as of yore, we extend to you our hand and bid you welcome again.

Especially do we most heartily welcome, to-day, our former sisters and brothers, who once belonged to our Order, who greeted us oft by their presence and encouraged us by their counsels. We look back to the earlier years of the Grange, to the time you nobly stood side by side with us by the altar and registered a solemn pledge to ever stand by the principles of the Order. But alas! to-day finds you far away; having not found to your satisfaction the pecuniary benefits you sought for, or becoming "weary in well doing," you have fallen by the way and we seldom see your faces.

Sisters and brothers of the farm, you who have never connected yourselves with our Order, there's a welcome for you.

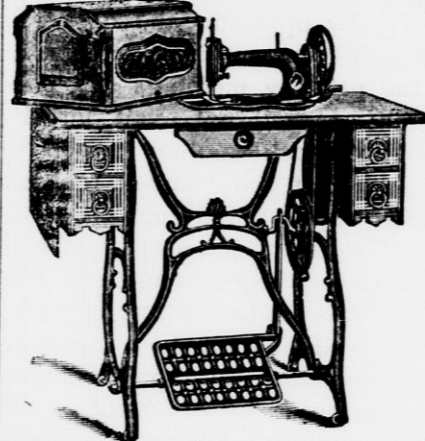
We are glad of the privilege of meeting you to-day upon this happy occasion. Once you may have looked with dissatisfaction upon us as an Order. But to day, seeing and knowing what we have accomplished during the first quarter century of our existence, it has lead you now to look upon us with favor. Two years ago the State Legislature of California appropriated \$10,000 out of its treasury to be expended in entertaining the members of the National Grange, and it is getting popular now for our State Legislators to want to know what Grangers want before they begin legislation; also for the press to say good words concerning us.

Take up the papers of to day and you will read good reports concerning the Grange. We have also in the past been honored with a farmer Patron Governor, who has left behind him a record deserving great praise and credit, to whom we look with pride and admiration. Congress has granted our requests by giving us a Secretary of Agriculture and a member from this state, the Hon. President Willets of the Agricultural College, has been placed in the department as assistant.

A \$45 SEWING MACHINE for \$15,

Including One Year's Subscription to this Paper.

We have made such arrangements as enable us to offer the Chicago



SINGER SEWING MACHINES

at the above low rates. This machine is made after the latest models of the Singer machines, and is a perfect fac simile in shape, ornamentation and appearance. All the parts are made to gauge exactly the same as the Singer, and are constructed of precisely the same materials.

The utmost care is exercised in the selection of the metals used, and only the very best quality is purchased. Each machine is thoroughly well made and is fitted with the utmost nicety and exactness, and no machine is permitted by the inspector to go out of the shops until it has been fully tested and proved to do perfect work, and run light and without noise.

The Chicago Singer Machine has a very important improvement in a Loose Balance Wheel, so constructed as to permit winding bobbins without removing the work from the machine.

EACH MACHINE IS FURNISHED WITH THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS:

HEMMERS, RUFFLER, TUCKER, PACKAGE OF NEEDLES, CHECK SPRING, THROAT PLATE, WRENCH, THREAD CUTTER, BINDER, BOBBINS, SCREW DRIVER, GAUGE, GAUGE SCREW, OIL-CAN, filled with Oil, and INSTRUCTION BOOK.

The driving wheel on this machine is admitted to be the simplest, easiest running and most convenient of any. The machine is self-threading, made of the best material, with the wearing parts hardened, and is finished in a superior style. It has veneered cover, drop-leaf table, 4 end drawers, and center swing drawer. The manufacturers warrant every machine for 5 years.

They say: "Any machine not satisfactory to a subscriber, we will allow returned and will refund the money." Price, including one year's subscription, \$15. Sent by freight, receiver to pay charges. Give name of freight station if different from post-office address. Address, with the money,

GRANGE VISITOR, Paw Paw, Mich.

SPRAY YOUR FRUIT TREES & VINES

Wormy Fruit and Leaf Blight of Apples, Peaches, Cherries, Raspberries, Grapes and Potatoes, Plum Curculion prevented by using EXCELSIOR SPRAYING. PERFECT FRUIT ALWAYS SELLS AT GOOD PRICES. Catalogue showing all injurious insects to Fruits mailed free. Large stock of Fruit Trees, Vines, and Berry Plants at Bottom Prices. Address WM. S. TAILL, Quincy, Ills.

Much praise is bestowed upon us as a conservative order, in the manner we have of doing our work and steering clear of everything that tends to draw us away from our principles. On account of these principles we have politely refused to take part with other farmer and labor organizations who are organizing a canvass for another party, believing it is best or better for each member to work for the best men in their several parties and flooding our congressmen and representatives with petitions asking for laws that will give "equal rights for all."

Crystal Grange has also a share in all this honor. We have a senator and representative, honorable members of this Grange, who have faithfully done all they could to help pass good laws for our Michigan farmers. We have national and state committees on "legislative action," whose duties are to keep an eye on legislation and use their influence in helping enact such laws that will be of use to us. But this is only a beginning of the good the order has done.

Thousands of dollars have been saved you, brother farmers, as well as to us, by the bold stand the Michigan State Grange took in the "slide gate," drive well, and spring-tooth harrow royalties, and the Patrons of Michigan fear no harm from such sharks, knowing that several thousand dollars is in the State Grange treasury ready to defend them when any such a shark "dares to show a hand." We have saved many thousand dollars by buying and selling together, and the reason why we as a Grange do not do so at present is on account of our own carelessness but I trust the indications of doing so in the future are very promising.

On account of this anniversary occurring on a school day many children will be deprived of these exercises. To those who are present with us to-day let me say, we welcome you, children, to this our Grange home. Be happy with us as we enjoy your presence. Our children are the best crops on the farm and it is our first duty to improve them for the "farmer is of more importance than the farm and should first be improved."

Finally let me say the Grange wants all of its former members and we want all good brother and sister farmers to number themselves among us. We need you and you need us. Come and join this "farmers' school." Here you will learn many useful things you have never heard before. Here you will become acquainted with worthy farmers in this town, county and state. Here you may

learn how to co-operate in buying and selling. Here in the Grange you will become better posted on the "issues of the day." Here, too, you will be posted in parliamentary rules and in business, and you, young men, can fit yourselves for public speakers here. The tendency of the world is organization in all its objects, trades and business. Farmers too must become organized or be left in the rear. And now in closing let me urge you to throw off all restraint, lay aside your cares and forget your trials. Together may we all sweetly live and together may we all be safely welcomed by the Master of the universe, when we leave this world. Again I bid you one and all a hearty welcome.

Welcome to all, thrice welcome to all; Come and be merry in this, our Grange hall. And when life is o'er and we're through every care,

Many a welcome be received from our Master "over there."

—Carson City Gazette.

To the MARDI GRAS AT NEW ORLEANS, LA. MARCH 1ST, 1892.

Tickets on Sale AT REDUCED RATES February 26th, 27th, 28th & 29th, Good for return until March 15th via

QUEEN & CRESCENT ROUTE, THE ONLY LINE RUNNING SOLID VESTIBULED TRAINS Through Without Change Cincinnati to New Orleans

Double Daily Train Service. 94 Miles Shortest and Quickest Line. Tickets on Sale at all Stations. MILLER, T. Mgr., D. G. EDWARDS, G. P. Agt. CINCINNATI, O.

Clubbing List with The Visitor.

	Both Papers
Weekly Free Press	\$1.00
Detroit Weekly Tribune	1.25
Cosmopolitan Magazine	2.40
St. Louis	1.50
Demorest's	2.00
Michigan Farmer	1.00
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Atlantic Monthly	4.00
Century Magazine	4.00

25 cent. Fringe Envelope etc. Cards with Name of Club on Outside and Big 12 PAGE MAIL FILE BOOK FREE. CAPITAL CARD CO., COLUMBUS, OHIO.

LIPPINCOTT'S

Is the most popular and widely read Magazine published. A COMPLETE NOVEL, Each number contains 4 complete novels, short stories, sketches, poems, etc. The January (1892) number will contain "The Passing of Major Kilgore." By Young E. Allison. The February (1892) number will contain "Roy the Royalist." By William Westall. The March (1892) number will contain "A Soldier's Secret." By Captain Charles King. For sale by all Booksellers and Newsdealers. SINGLE COPIES 25 CTS. \$3.00 PER YEAR.

SEE 100s, 12 pkts. Flower 10c, 12 pkts. Vegetable 30c, 6 Dahlias 50c, 10 Gladiolus 30c. All \$1. Half 50c. H. F. Burr, Taunton, Mass.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

Published on the 1st and 15th of every month.
AT 50 CENTS PER ANNUM.

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

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Money Order or Draft.

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Second Class Matter.

To Subscribers.

Send money when possible by either postal note or money order. We prefer a dollar bill for two subscribers, to 50 cents in stamps for one. The bank will take the dollar, but they refuse the stamps.

We shall send the paper only so long as it is paid for. If you wish it continued, a prompt renewal will keep it constantly coming and save us the trouble of making the changes. If numbers fail to reach you, or your post-office address is changed, notify us at once and we will gladly send another number and make the desired change. Packages of papers will be sent to all who desire them for distribution.

Send the names of your friends on a postal card whom you desire to receive sample copies.

Machine Politics.

The Visitor cannot be entirely silent on all questions which come under the general term of "political." There are some methods in politics which ought to be condemned by every one. There are also men who seek office who do so as a business venture, trusting to their chances for money-making in the positions sought, and the added advantage of gratifying their vanity when set up among the assorted few. The Visitor is only interested to have good and wise men selected for the places to be filled at the coming elections, and it reserves the privilege of having its "say" when men of either party procure their nominations by unworthy and questionable methods, or where the men themselves are unworthy. It will also insist that in rural communities, where the majority of the voters are farmers or interested in agriculture, that officers and representatives be chosen who are farmers, or whose principle interest is in agriculture. This is claiming only what is just and right, and farmers ought not to concede one of its rights to machine-made candidates. We thus early lift up a warning voice, for in every district, and for every position to be filled in the coming campaign, there are persons with "claims" who are already arranging to "scoop the primaries," and to foist themselves upon the public as the "popular candidates." They will be found nursing their booms at public gatherings, and posing as political prophets before the peripatetic interviewer. They have a becoming modesty, a sedate decorum, and blushing innocence when the availability of candidates is under discussion on the street, but are eager for the news from those whom they have assigned as their lieutenants to reconnoitre and to fortify for the siege.

These "claimants" also frequently get innocent looking puffs in the papers, especially from adjoining towns, cataloguing their many virtues and pointing out their fitness for the positions sought, to the end that the dear people may become accustomed to see their names in connection with the office, and so get to believing it a foregone conclusion.

It would be quite an eye-opener to the general public if the "get there methods" of machine poli-

ticians could all be disclosed. It would be found that most of the aspirants were linked together in a you-help-me-and-I-will-help-you class to defeat any popular expression of preference for candidates, and to compel acquiescence in their schemes.

Whenever and wherever such political projects become apparent, every voter not "in it" should show his resentment and indignation by opposing and exposing the shemes, and if opposition at the primary meetings and conventions will not avail, let the ballot teach another lesson to show that you "cannot fool all the people all the time."

The day of the success of machine politics is about over. The public is too well informed to be deceived and not show a proper resentment. Let the Grange, as an independent voting power, set its seal of condemnation upon every attempt to defeat a public preference by substituting one of their ready-made politicians. Its members may be assured that these men have already made promises ahead, in the event of their election, that would make impossible any independent action in the interest of the public—that all their efforts would be bent upon carrying out the "plans" to keep a few in position and lift others to places in payment for "support" in critical times. We don't want politicians in any position. We want men with business ability, who have a business at home to which they are loyal, and who will legislate in its interest. Farmers, if you want your interest attended to, elect a farmer to represent you in the State Legislature and in Congress.

Threatened.

A couple of months ago or more we had occasion to allude to some of the impractical measures the Lecturer of the National Grange was the especial propagandist of and we stated the case in a way to show that such sentiment could get no sympathy among members of the Grange in our state. We have been aware for a long time that the "VISITOR" was not the most welcome visitor at the office of the Lecturer because it was opposed to official dictatorship of political doctrine; but now comes, in a belated sort of way, through the columns of an esteemed Grange Journal, a threat that if these "unfraternal" criticisms are persisted in that the "animus" of the "abuse" will be "exposed."

We certainly hope no occasion will offer for a repetition of our censure. Indeed we had began to believe that the Worthy Lecturer had seen the error of his way, as every body else seems to see it, and that he would confine himself to his legitimate duty, in which, we are glad to give evidence, he is very efficient and valuable. We are very glad, here and now, to publish the "animus" of our strictures upon the matter sent out by the Lecturer, which was simply and purely to preserve for the Grange the respect which it has gained among all classes through years of wise counsel to farmers, and for its sound practical doctrine upon important questions of state craft; endorsing his platform would have upset all this.

If the Lecturer still stands by his pet two per cent land loan scheme he has the proud distinction of standing nearly alone. The odor of it is about all that is left to others.

In the paper alluded to, he, however, could not refrain from giving free coinage a boost—one of the other questionable meas-

ures which political parties are struggling with, and which the VISITOR is satisfied to leave with them, instead of endorsing or fighting it. We do not relish being threatened for independently advocating what we deem to be right, and shall not thus be deterred from swinging a mental club to hit fallacies wherever found.

The Gobleville Institute.

We attended the Van Buren County Farmers' Institute at Gobleville on the 17th and 18th of last month. The sleighing was fine, and many farmers from a distance drove across the country to be in attendance, and to meet with kindred spirits from other sections of the county. Thirteen rigs drove the twelve miles from Paw Paw to the place of meeting. The institute opened at 10:30, and at that hour the hall was well filled, and packed to the doors at the opening in the afternoon. The program was an excellent one from start to finish. President E. A. Wildey kept the program well in hand, and supplied the few failures with extemporized talks by farmers who were present, so that the themes were ably presented and discussed.

Farmers' institutes in new fields will bring out some queer facts; among them is this, that persons living under the shadow of the building as it were, who ought to be interested, and who could be greatly benefited by the discussions therein will stand on the street corners in stolid indifference, while others will go twenty miles and consider the time and money well expended. One farmer here, whose home adjoins the village school building, gave as an excuse for his absence that he was "opposed to secret societies"; another who happened to be in town said: "Such a meeting can't do me any good," and we suppose such sentiments, or those equivalent to them, are heard on the streets at every such gathering of farmers. We should be glad if we were able to send the Visitor for a year to every such farmer in Michigan, as a missionary messenger for their enlightenment, for we know none of our regular readers belong to this class. They are among the first at all farmers' meetings, and know how to conduct themselves to get the most out of them. It may be that our critic at Gobleville, who didn't believe in secret societies, had imbibed his impressions from the fact that members of the Grange are always lively factors in every such enterprise, and know how to manage them; but they are not a bit selfish, they would be glad to have every farmer present and enjoy the benefits of the discussions, and profit by them also. We shall publish some of the papers presented at this institute, but space forbids a report of the lengthy discussions which followed them.

In the last issue of the Visitor two of our subscribers, who had purchased sewing machines, expressed their entire satisfaction with the performance of them. No word of complaint from a single one has yet been heard, which is proof enough that there is no risk in sending for one. Those of our readers who are in want of a good machine can be entirely satisfied, as we can get a fancy oak case, nickel-plated, "Peerless" machine for \$22.00 and the Visitor for a year—just such a machine as is sold for \$45.00 by agents. Send on the money and "we do the rest."

Notice.

Michigan State Grange Secretary's office, Marcellus, Feb. 12th. The Capitol Grange Opening Song cards, used by Capitol Grange and heartily indorsed by the State Grange at its last session are ready for distribution among Granges wishing to add this pleasing feature to their programs.

Price 2 cts., each; 75 cts., for 50 copies, \$1.35 for 100 copies.

JENNIE BUELL,
Sec'y.

We are so crowded with original and timely matter in this issue that our Southern letter is unavoidably left out, but will keep until another paper is printed. Meanwhile, don't keep your correspondence back for fear of a glut. We shall need it all very soon.

State Lecturer Crosby informs us that his appointments for the present week are in Gratiot county, at the following places: Liberty Grange, Monday, Feb. 29th; Lafayette and Emerson, Tuesday, March 1st; Arcadia, Wednesday, 2d; Wright Grange, Thursday, 3rd; and Pioneer Grange, Friday, 4th. We trust friends in each of these places will see that the Visitor has an opportunity to be seen twenty-four times more during the year to come, and that a report of the success of the meetings will be sent for publication.

WHEREAS, There is an effort being made to belittle the results of the local option law in this county to prejudice the action of voters in other counties where the vote is soon to be taken; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members of Paw Paw Grange, assembled on this evening, Feb. 26th, do affirm our confidence in the effectiveness of the law to suppress drunkenness and the drinking habit in saloons, as is proved by the conviction of saloon keepers in every trial during the last year.

The above resolution passed by unanimous vote—seventy-eight members being present.

H. O. SHELDON, Master.
A. T. FOOTE, Sec'y.

From the Washington Post of the 24th of February we clip the following:

"The arguments made by Col. Brigham and Mr. Mortimer Whitehead who, representing the National Grange, urged that \$200,000 be appropriated to enable the Postmaster General to test the free-delivery system in country districts has borne fruit. Senator Mitchell yesterday reported this feature as an amendment to the Post-office appropriation bill."

Wadsworth, Feb. 16, 1892—Ed. Visitor: At the annual meeting of Huron County Pomona Grange, held with Wadsworth Grange, Dec. 17, the following officers were elected:

Master, Philip Kappler; Overseer, Hugh Watson; Lecturer, Wm. Burhans; Steward, Richard Nugent; Ass't Steward, George Pangman; Chaplain, Archie Leach; Treasurer, John Hunt; Secretary, Mrs. R. Nugent; Gate Keeper, Duncan McKenzie; Pomona, Mrs. George Pangman; Flora, Mrs. John Hunt; Ceres, Mrs. J. Nugent; Lady Ass't Steward, Mrs. Burhans.

An invitation was accepted to hold our next meeting with North Burns Grange, which will be held on Thursday, March 6, 1892. This seems like imposing a little on good nature, as the September meeting was at North Burns, but owing to the very disagreeable wet day the attendance was not very large; however, those who braved the storm were amply repaid and will be very apt to attend next time, if possible. Installation of officers will take a place and a pleasant time is expected.

MRS. R. NUGENT, Sec'y.

It is quite probable that you may need the services of a physician; but you can postpone the time indefinitely by keeping your blood pure and your system invigorated through the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Prevention is better than cure.

Clinton County Pomona Grange No. 25 met with the Keystone Grange on Feb. 10th. After the usual business was transacted we listened to one of the best welcome addresses that we have ever heard, by V. C. Botsford. The response was given by Mrs. Geo. Jewett and showed good thought although it was delivered extempore.

Bro. F. W. Redfern's paper on the best means to secure equal taxation brought out a good deal of discussion but no means were suggested to bring about the desired result.

The question for discussion Resolved, the board of trade is of more benefit than injury to the farmer was opened by O. A. Whitlock and V. C. Botsford both of the speakers thought there were good features in the board of trade yet it should be under the control of the government and made to do a legitimate business. It is a little amusing to see in the papers how anxious the speculators and bankers are for the interests of the farmer. But so far we have never seen it explained just how it benefited us to have 20 times as much wheat sold as we raise in one year. But this is an age of improvement and we may see it yet.

The free delivery of mails was discussed to some extent but no definite action was taken by the Grange to help in the matter.

The evening entertainment was a complete success. The recitations were all good and well rendered. Altogether it was a very profitable meeting.

O. L. BECKWITH, Lec't.

Flushing, Feb. 19, 1892—Ed. Visitor: The last meeting of Flushing Grange No. 387, was a very interesting one. After opening in the regular form and going through with the Order of Business, the gates were thrown open to invited guests, who took part in the exercises, which consisted of papers on different subjects and discussions, interspersed with music. Bro. B. Turner, in a paper on Silos and Ensilage, tried to show, by figures, how we could all get rich on a farm of forty acres, which was well discussed and brought out some valuable points in economic farming. Bro. L. Tilton described his method of raising potatoes, a crop that he has raised very successfully for the past ten years. A paper on Practical Farming, read by Bro. W. A. Garner, was full of good suggestions. Such meetings are what the farmers need, and if the Grange would open its doors to the public more than they do in discussing questions pertaining to general farming, I think it would be a great benefit; the Grange would gain in numbers and thereby add strength to the Order.

JOHN PASSMORE, Sec'y.

Professor George Herbert Palmer, who has "Doubts about University Extension," embodies them in a paper under this title in the March Atlantic. He says:—

Rather with benefit than with damage a college teacher may, on occasion, recast the instruction that was intended for professionals and offer it to a popular audience. In this way a professor makes himself known, and makes his college known. Many of the small colleges are now engaging in university extension as an inexpensive means of advertising themselves. But such lecturing is incidental, voluntary, and perpetually liable to interruption. Beyond the immediate series of lectures it cannot be depended on. There is nothing institutional about it. The men who undertake it are owned elsewhere, and a second mortgage is not usually a very valuable piece of property. A movement which places its reliance on the casual teaching of overworked men is condemned from the start. University extension can never pass beyond the stage of amateurism and temporary expedient until, like its English namesake, it has a permanent staff of instructors exclusively devoted to its service.

We have sent some copies of the Visitor to several Granges beyond the period of subscription, to give time for renewal; the blue pencil sweeps them off this issue, and renewal or suspension is now imperative.

(From 1st page.)

cheaper for the government, but not for the individual. If a few mine owners have silver, and put it in the mint to be coined, isn't it a detriment to us? For instance: We will say that the government owns the mills at Minneapolis. They buy the wheat and grind it; but would it make flour cheaper for the consumer? President Harrison referred to the consuming class, not to the producing class.

Mr. Dunn thinks the ladies had something to do with depreciating silver, as they will not wear a silver watch, but must have a gold one.

Miss Benita Crispell read a selection from Josiah Allen's Wife, "The Lords of Creation."

Miss Florence Crego recited very nicely "The Burning Prairie."

The subject for discussion at the next meeting will be, "Can the Liquor Traffic be Suppressed by Statute Law?" opened by Mrs. Mary Winans.

Adjourned to meet at "Log Cabin Farm," the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. M. Edwards, on the first Saturday in March.

MRS. J. D. CRISPELL,
Club Reporter.

Farmer Jones on a Straw Stack.

I don't mean the above heading to be taken literally, for Jones doesn't like that position at threshing time. Though the top of a straw stack may be a good place from which to view the operation of threshing, if the wind is in the right quarter, but it isn't the best place in the world to take a stroll, as there is too much strain on the understandings for pleasure, hence Jones doesn't often mount a straw stack; but still he gets on one, figuratively speaking, and holds it down year after year, until kindly nature and Jones' cattle undermine the foundations and bring the ancient monument tumbling about their ears. At such times what remains is burned, or Jones spreads himself and continues to "hold it down" and render useless the six or eight rods of land it covers. Once in a great while it is drawn out on the fields and plowed under, but never put where it will do the most good.

Show me a farmer's straw stack and I will tell you whether or not he makes farming a success. By success I do not mean a miserable living. There are thousands of farmers who manage to live on year after year, without making a success of farming—men who might do less with their hands and have more money in their pockets at the end of the year. All that is necessary to make the difference is a little brain work and enough energy to see that the ideas from the brain are put into practice.

The maxim of Ben Franklin's may be old, but it's trite, and the man who expects to succeed must "hold or drive." Now, as driving is much easier than holding, and may be made more profitable on a large farm, it's puzzling to a thoughtful person why the farmer does not let some one else hold while he drives, instead of intrusting both to a farm hand, or trying to do both himself, with the result that neither is more than half done.

Now, my friend, with hay-seed in your hair, have you got an old straw stack? If you have, then your name is Jones and the best thing you can do is to give your team, hired man and yourself a little exercise by putting a load or two of it in that low place in your barnyard, to absorb the concentrated fertilizer that is going to waste, and when that is well tramped down, put in more, until the stack is gone or the barnyard gets full to the top of the fence, but don't let the liquid manure run off to the creek for want of a little elbow grease put to that straw stack. You may not enjoy the exercise as well as sitting in the house, and it's certain the hired man won't; but it will be better for your health, and his, too, and you will feel amply rewarded when you gather in the crops from the fields that straw made more fertile; and you can raise enough from the ground where the stack stood to take the whole family on a "harvest excursion."

A. L.
Eaton Rapids.

Banquet of Capital Grange, North Lansing.

On the evening of Feb. 20, the Hall was completely filled with members seated at five long tables. Charles A. Clement, as Toast Master, introduced the following persons to speak on the several subjects here named:

Washington's Birthday, Hon. S. H. Preston.

The Character of Washington, H. N. Covert.

Washington as a Soldier, A. Ayres.

How the World was Made, Dr. W. J. Beal.

Washington as a Farmer, Wyatt L. Brown.

The Young Married People of the Grange, B. A. Kyes.

The Gray-Haired Boys, E. M. Hill.

The Curiosity, Elmer E. West.

The Standard of Taste, Miss Fannie E. Oviatt.

Economy, Political and Otherwise, Andrew S. West.

Social Life in the Grange, S. E. Oviatt.

The Dude in the Grange, Prof. G. C. Davis.

The Old Bachelor, Obadiah C. Wheeler.

Leap Year—Its Advantages and Disadvantages, Miss Grace E. Melvin.

Our College Boys in the Grange, Celia M. Hilliard.

True Politeness, Percy Oviatt.

The Party Spirit, Robert L. Hewitt.

The Politics of the Future, James Gunnison.

Industry, Mrs. Bina Ayres.

The Boundaries of Christmas—a recitation by young Miss Scooley.

Early Impressions, Mrs. De Ette A. Williams.

Our Dramatic Club, Frank J. Free.

Be Cheerful, Mrs. L. T. Hewitt.

Eloquence in the Grange, Prof. E. A. Burnett.

Delusions, A. D. Bank.

The Evils of Extravagance, Mrs. E. S. Preston.

The Good Part, Mrs. Alice I. Hume.

Music and singing was furnished by Mr. B. A. Kyes and wife, Miss Gunnison, Mrs. Grace G. Reeve, Maud O. Allen and others.

It was thought better to have many short responses—not to exceed three minutes each—than to have a few long ones.

Mr. Clement acquitted himself admirably as presiding officer, and Worthy Master Bank said just the right thing. Favorable comment, apt sentences and personal hits could be quoted from nearly all who spoke, would the space permit.

Besides the speakers, among members in attendance, we noticed E. D. Allen and wife, Henry C. Everett and wife, James W. Franks and wife, Edwin H. Hume, Benj. F. Smith and wife, Chas. A. Taylor and wife, H. H. Walker, Geo. S. Williams, W. E. Taylor, of Ellendale, N. D., a former member who had been absent for six years, was in attendance. He was accompanied by his sister, Miss Ella Taylor.

A large number, especially of the older members, were unable to attend, owing to the prevailing influenza.

All seemed to unite in the opinion that it was a most profitable occasion and agreed to score one more notch for Capital Grange.

W. J. BEAL.

Coldwater, Feb. 15, 1892—Ed. Visitor: Branch County Pomona Grange held a rousing meeting with Guard Grange, Feb. 11. The morning session was devoted to business. Every Grange in the county was represented, and the reports showed each to be holding its own, while several show symptoms of greater activity. The executive committee was instructed to take steps immediately toward securing a lecture course in this county. The exercises of the afternoon were public, and the audience room of the Hall was filled nearly to overflowing. The principle topics for discussion were: "Railways," "Free Mail Delivery for the Farmer," and "The Mortgage Tax Law." These were interspersed with recitations and music. A resolution was passed favoring free mail delivery. Branch Co. Pomona Grange is in good working order, as any one

in attendance at this meeting will willingly affirm.

CARRIE L. FISKE, Sec'y.

Shelby, Mich., Feb. 8, 1892—Ed. Visitor: In looking over the columns of your paper I fail to find anything from the Order in this county (Oceana), and not wanting the brothers and sisters throughout the state to think that the delegates from this county to the 19th meeting of the State Grange came home and crawled into their shells, like a couple of snails, we write this short letter. There are only two Granges in working order at present in this county, viz: Fraternal No. 406, of Shelby, and Sylvan No. 393, to which we have the honor of belonging. We were unable to attend the meeting for the installation of officers of Fraternal Grange, but were present at their next meeting and made our report. Found them, although few in number, full of zeal for the cause, and with good prospects for an increased membership during the year. We also feel encouraged at the outlook for our own Grange. Last year, for some time, the prospect seemed gloomy enough, and at one time the life-tide ran so low that it was announced that at the next meeting a vote would be taken to decide as to the advisability of trying to sustain the organization longer. This gave the sisters a chance to show their love for the cause, and at the next meeting they came with well-filled baskets and, before the vote could be taken, the brothers were invited to partake of a feast that would have made glad the heart of even "ye editor," had he been present, to partake of the many delicacies set forth. The result was a grand victory for the sisters, there being but one negative vote cast.

We now have our Grange well organized and are looking forward to a prosperous year. There will be a meeting held, in the near future, of delegates from the two Granges to elect a Deputy for the county, to oversee the lecture work. This, I think, is a step in the right direction.

I wish, before I close, to say a word of encouragement to the editor of the Visitor. I hear only words of praise for it here, and can say that it is a regular visitor to the home of every Patron of Husbandry in the county.

Our officers for the present year are as follows: Master, O. K. White, Cranston; Overseer, A. Brady, Shelby; Lecturer, R. H. Taylor, Shelby; Steward, H. Myers, Cranston; Chaplain, Julia Myers, Cranston; Treasurer, A. P. Peterson, Shelby; Sec'y, G. C. Myers, Cranston; Gate Keeper, Eugene Myers, Cranston; Ceres, Mrs. O. K. White, Cranston; Pomona, Mrs. R. H. Taylor, Shelby; Flora, Miss Vesta Smith, Cranston; Lady Ass't Steward, Lena L. Myers, Cranston; Ass't Steward, August Endahl, Cranston.

Yours fraternally,

R. H. TAYLOR,

Lecturer Sylvan Grange.

Ed. Visitor: As I have not as yet seen any notice in your very valuable paper of our Grange, I thought I would send you a word or two concerning it. Our Grange is small but a very good one. The installation of officers took place with us Jan. 7, 1892. Bro. Russell, of Arcada Grange, acted as Installing Officer, which made it a grand success. Ex-Gov. Luce is expected to be with us on the afternoon and evening of March 1st. A good attendance is desired.

Yours fraternally,

MRS. B. H. FAILING,
Lafayette and Emerson Grange
No. 521.

Ed. Visitor: Please publish that Olive Centre Grange has just started an eight-weeks' contest for the oysters. Excitement is high; everybody interested and at work. Many young and middle-aged members are making their maiden efforts on essays, poems, &c. At our last meeting fourteen new members were initiated in the presence of a crowded house. New members count in the contest; so do subs. to the Visitor, hence our orders every week.

A. R. R.

The American Eagle must be a gay old bird—he is bald. If you don't want to be bald, use Hall's Hair Renewer, and you won't be. Try it.

Kent County Pomona Grange.

The above Grange held a short but interesting session with Grattan Grange, Feb. 10. Although the attendance was not large, owing to the all prevailing disease, la grippe, yet there was a goodly number of earnest Patrons, so that our meeting did not fail to be interesting. Dinner being over, the Worthy Master called the meeting to order. After a few remarks and, owing to the shortness of the time, he said we would immediately proceed to carry out the program as far as possible. The first topic was "Roads." Bro. C. M. Slayton opened the discussion by reading a paper; then a lively discussion followed, the majority being in favor of a money tax and a less number of road districts, etc. Mrs. O. L. Watkins then read an essay, entitled, "Is it possible to lessen the arduous labor of house-keeping?" This subject was designed to call out some remarks from the sisters, we even asking their criticism, but as usual they had very little to say, but we presume they kept up a deal of thinking.

The Free Mail Delivery in rural districts was next discussed. All that expressed their opinions decided in their favor, believing it both feasible and just, as farmers pay the largest per centage of the taxes. The Board of Trade question was next taken up and discussed, but the subject not being well understood was laid over for next meeting; but enough is known of the gigantic workings of these great combines to satisfy farmers that they are most unmercifully robbed of their hard earnings. The Board of Trade may have a good side, but it has become badly eclipsed by gambling with the products of the farm; so, for this reason, farmers demand a halt in the proceedings.

The next and last question was, "Why Young People should join the Grange." Now there are many reasons, the first one being that we must have the young people from the farm to perpetuate the noble principles of our Order. In the Grange the young people have many advantages socially, morally and intellectually; a better place for improvement is hard to find; certainly, in our large towns the influences are not as good as in the Grange. Another reason why we want our farmer boys and girls to join the Grange is because it will make them better men and women; it will cause them to love the farm and to beautify its surroundings, and to take an interest in everything pertaining to the farm; it will enable them to become better citizens, on account of the lessons they are taught. The principles of the Grange are grand and ennobling—none need be afraid to enter its gates.

We have not spoken of the music and singing; this was furnished by the Grattan Grange choir, and to the delight of all present.

Fraternally yours,

AUNT KATE.

Church's Corners, Feb. 18th, 1892—Ed. Visitor: The State Institute held in the Hall of Grange No. 273, Church's Corners, was a success in every particular. Great interest was manifested at the first session and constantly increased, until at the last evening it was intense. The meeting will be productive of much good, from the fact that its coming out into the country and reaching a large class of young farmers that would not, through lack of knowledge of its workings, have had interest enough to go to one of the towns to attend. The universal comment is, "I wish it had lasted longer. If they ever hold another here I will ask more questions, as facts coming from those who know what they are talking about leave different impressions than the haphazard opinions of everybody." Wheatland Grange is very thankful for the State Institute and, although they did not receive the co-operation of those outside in the preliminary work they expected, they are glad everybody came and received the benefit. Our motto is: "Progress," and we are not the least bit selfish about the distribution of the benefits which accrue.

E. D.

Lenawee County Grange.

This Grange met with Medina Grange, Thursday, Feb. 4th, in regular bi-monthly session. The condition of the roads made it difficult for Patrons living at a distance to attend, but when dinner was announced after the business meeting of the 5th degree; nearly one hundred sat down to the bountiful repast. When called to order after dinner, the hall was well filled with members and friends of the order, to witness the installation of the officers of the County Grange. Medina Grange choir sang the installation ode, when G. W. Woodworth, of Morenci Grange, assisted by W. W. Foster, of Medina, proceeded with the exercises of installation. The following persons are the officers for 1892:

M—W. Woolsey, Madison; O—E. A. Taylor, Onstead; L—Mrs. M. T. Cole, Palmyra; S—R. Peters, Fruit Ridge; A. S—W. Rice, Rollin; C—L. Remington, Macon; Treasurer—C. T. Cheney, Ogden; Secretary—Mary Allis, Madison; G. K—E. Allis; Pomona—Mrs. A. J. Sutton; Ceres—Mrs. G. B. Horton, Fruit Ridge; Flora—Mrs. E. A. Taylor; L. A. S—Mrs. Wm. Rice, Rollin.

The officers being seated, C. R. Lyon, of Medina, spoke words of welcome, which were responded to by T. F. Moore. The literary program, besides music and recitations, discussed the subject of tiling, free delivery of mails in the country, the conditions and relations of farmers' organizations, and social life in the farmer's family.

The reports from subordinate Granges show the order in a prosperous condition. Nine of the eleven Granges were represented at the meeting. The next meeting will be held with Palmyra Grange, the first Thursday in April. Medina Grange has a membership of 68. Its hall is nicely furnished, carpeted and lighted. It has a good organ and well selected library. Its large average attendance demonstrates that its members appreciate its benefits. If rural communities keep abreast with the progress of the times, they must organize, and the Grange is undoubtedly the best of the number offered him.

GEO. D. MOORE.

WHITE OAK, Feb. 20th, ED. VISITOR: White Oak Grange No. 241 is in a very flourishing condition. It has a membership of seventy in good standing, and all are interested in the Order. Have Grange every Saturday evening and good attendance. Our Grange recently organized a contest which increases the literary work and creates great excitement and strife to see which side gains the highest scale of counts, at the end of the contest, the defeated side furnishes the supper.

At our last annual election the following officers were chosen. W. M. G. H. Proctor; W. O. E. M. Kimbal; W. L. Annie Patrick; W. S. Milton Kendrick; W. Ass't. S. Claud Phelps; Chap. Mrs. A. J. Proctor; W. Treas., Pierce Proctor; W. Sec'y., C. F. Patrick; W. G. K., William Martin; Ceres, Lettie Kimbal; Pomona, Lottie Post; Flora, May Grimes; L. Ass't. S., Addie Patrick; Organist, Phebe Proctor.

A TRUE PATRON.

The complete novel in Lippincott's Magazine for March, "A Soldier's Secret," is by Captain Charles King, who alone among living Americans has the secret of the military tale. What he does not know about army life in the West is not worth knowing, and what he knows he can impart with unsurpassed and un-failing charm. The post, the bivouac, the battle-field,—whatever goes on at these he makes to live again before us; for he has been a part of it all, and his heart is with the cavalry still. His last story has a very recent theme,—the Sioux war of 1890,—and will be found equal to any of his previous work.

Remember that Ayer's Cherry Pectoral has no equal as a specific for colds, coughs, and all affections of the throat and lungs. For nearly half a century it has been in greater demand than any other remedy for pulmonary complaints. All druggists have it for sale.

Ladies' Department.

No, Mother Isn't Handsome.

No, mother isn't handsome—that is, in form and features—
Because she's stooped and wrinkled up and toothless and so gray;
She never was cut out to shine with dazzling band-box creatures,
Just gotten up expressly for a milliner's display.
Oh, no, she isn't handsome, just kind o' glancin' at her.
Because her cheeks are sunken and she's angular and lean;
Her hands are brown and skinny, still to me those things don't matter.
I bow to her and love her as no subject can his queen.
Not handsome, but a beauty is in her soul a-beamin',
That shines through and illuminates her wrinkled, sun-browned face,
And from her very bein' a goodness seems a-streamin'
And foldin' round and brightnin' the quiet old home place.
She's one of them old-fashioned and motherly old women,
With words of balm of Gilead a drippin' from their lips,
And whose herb tea the fev'rish head that's achin' and a swimmin',
Can ease without the doctor makin' his expensive trips.
A doin' all the work for years, she hain't perhaps as nimble
As folks that never do a thing but play and read and rock;
But yet she does the cookin', uses scissors, thread thimble,
And makes her needles jingle when she heels or toes a sock.
A person just to see her, I s'pose would hardly take her
To be more than the av'rage run, but know her as I do,
I'll bet you when she leaves us, the one she serves will make her
The handsomest of angels and the leader o' 'em, too.
—Will A. Davis, in Ohio Farmer.

Criticism.

Read before Paw Paw Grange Feb. 12th by Mrs. M. J. Coy.

What is criticism? and is there such a thing as friendly criticism? A professional critic may perhaps show the good points of a book or a work of art as easily as he does the poorer points, but among ordinary friends and acquaintances we rarely see or hear a kindly criticism, unless one is asked as a favor to tell what they think of something done by another, and then it is not often that we are honest or candid enough to point out the faults as we see them to the face of our friend. So it seems to me that favorable criticism is simply praise, and unfavorable, only blame or fault-finding. And, alas! how much more of the latter we indulge in ourselves, and encounter in our intercourse with others, than of the former. Of all the unfortunate and dangerous practices, not subject to legal adjustment and discipline, this one of unkind and fault-finding criticism is one of the most injurious and far-reaching in its effects. It destroys friendships and begets enmities; it causes hatred where once love existed, and, worst of all, is its effects upon the one who indulges in it, for it sours his disposition and destroys his faith in his fellow men.

We who have families of growing children cannot be too careful and watchful of ourselves in this respect. We have no right to destroy their natural belief in everybody's goodness and honesty, or to spoil, by an almost criminal thoughtlessness, any good impression made by another. One can soon learn the home life of a family by observing the manners and conversation of the children of that family when away from home, for they are unconscious imitators of their elders.

Our churches, clubs, and even the Grange, are subject to this wholesale unkindly criticism of each other, which harms equally the critic and his victim, and does no good to any one. On the other hand, if we would take a small amount of the time and pains to look for the virtues of our friends that we use in exposing their faults, we would be surprised to find how nearly perfect they are. Meanwhile let us practice as well as preach, that none need say of us, "Physician, heal thyself."

Woman's Work.

At the suggestion of a sister, at the 22d annual session of the National Grange, a committee on Woman's Work was appointed. The work has increased in importance during the three years of its existence, until now it is recognized as one of the strong factors for beneficial results in our order. Now that the sisters

are learning more what it means and what a wide field is open for them, it should receive their hearty support and co-operation. The time was fully ripe for just such a movement—a natural outgrowth of the years of labor which had preceded it.

Victor Hugor says "The nineteenth century is woman's century." This especially holds true for the women of the farm. They are beginning to look about and discern that there are duties and responsibilities for them outside of their kitchens and extending beyond their door-yards.

It is perfectly right and proper that we should wield the broom and dust-cloth, and there is no discredit in doing so, unless we allow the mind to have no higher range than the labor of our hands, for we will drift into any plane—just as have a mind to allow ourselves.

The constant query is: "What shall we do?" In a letter from Sister Woodman, chairman of the National Committee for this Division, she says: "Originate, copy, or plan anything that will be of interest to the Grange." The best plan I can conceive of to help you is to put you in a way to help yourselves. As every person is known by certain traits which characterize him as an individual, so every Grange possesses certain qualities which stamp it as distinctively, and it becomes the duty of the local committee to arrange the work to meet their especial needs.

My sister on the committee of Woman's Work, in the Visitor of Feb. 1, urged the sisters to lend their assistance in building the "Temple of Ceres." Other states are helping in the work—why not Michigan?

The Executive Committee of the National Grange spoke in high terms of the interest in and work accomplished by the committees on woman's work. I do not think the object of the "Grange Temple" is generally understood, and I would suggest that Sister Woodman at her earliest opportunity explain the object in view, so that as soon as the Executive Committee of the National Grange has consummated its plans, the Patrons may be ready to receive it and join in hearty co-operation.

I would also suggest that the committees keep a memorandum of their work, which will assist them materially in making out their annual report to the State committee. And, finally, I would urge that you make free use of the columns in the Visitor set aside for our use.

Fraternally,
MARY C. ALLIS,
Adrian, Mich.

Eternal Vigilance in Mending.

I once knew a large family of romping girls and boys who always looked neat and tidy, although, as I happened to know, they did not have half as many new clothes as a neighboring family who were in tatters half the time. I asked the mother of the tidy children how in the world she managed to keep her children's garments always so neatly mended. She replied that, aside from her regular weekly mending, she went every night after her children were in bed and looked their clothing over, and if there were any torn places in any garment it was mended then; if a button was off, it was replaced by another; if a stocking had begun to be "holy," it was immediately treated. It made me tired (I don't mean to be slangy) when I thought of that mother's nightly round among her swarm of children. Their clothes were common, sometimes almost verging on meanness, and without any frills or furbelows; for this sensible housewife preferred that they should be plain and mended rather than ruffled and ragged.

The policy of this wise mother is applicable in other ways. How soon a building becomes dilapidated if one is not constantly on the lookout to make the needed repairs—a broken hinge here, a broken pane of glass there, door-knobs working loose, a patch of falling plaster, paint worn off or grown gray, leaks started which will spoil the plaster and paper unless quickly attended to. Neglect of all these little things soon gives a house a gone-to-ruin look. A few nails, hinges and screws, a

lump of putty, a few small cans of paint, some brushes and varnish kept on hand and used on the principle of "a stitch in time" will keep the new look on buildings and their surroundings. If the housewife is supplied with paper, paint, varnish, whitewash and brushes, and has the strength to use them, she can keep the inside of the house fresh and new-looking. Even if she has but little strength, she can paste some paper over a torn place on the wall, or a bit of cloth on the back of a torn curtain, tack the dropping fringe upon a lounge or chair, put a patch over a torn place in the carpet, and do many other little things toward mending the interior of the house.

Our bodies, too, may be kept in repair by attention to little things—needed rest, recreation, pure air and pleasant surrounding. Avoid overwork, stimulants and worry. No doubt many of us might mend our ways with profit to ourselves and others; but on this point I do not feel competent to give advice. You may all go to the Divine Helper for strength and every other aid necessary to improve your hearts and lives. He will never refuse His assistance; He will never guide you wrongly.—"Dorothy Lincoln" in Farm and Home.

The Brotherless Girl.

The girl without a brother is especially to be pitied, writes Ruth Ashmore in the December Ladies' Home Journal. She is the girl who is never certain of getting the pleasures of life unless she is very attractive. Of course, she has no brother who she is certain will take her everywhere; she is apt to get a little bit vain, for she has no brother to tell her, as only a brother will, of her faults and mistakes. It is only the somewhat doubtful tact of a brother that announces, "I wouldn't walk up street with you in that frock;" and the girl whose brother says this to her may be certain that he is only expressing the opinion of other girls' brothers. He may do it in the most gentle way, but he does tell the truth, and if you ask him why paying a visit to another girl is more desirable than to one you know, he will sit down and look at you, and then he will say: "Well, you see, it is just this way: From the time you get there she is a nice girl, who gives you a pleasant welcome, and yet she doesn't gush over you. She is entertaining, and yet she has a fashion of putting down disgusting gossip and silly talk among whoever is there. She is a restful sort of a girl; she is not always wanting to do something that tires you half to death, and where the game isn't worth the candle, and when she says goodbye to you, you feel certain that she is pretty glad you came, and that she will be glad to see you another time, but that she doesn't look upon you as the "one and only" man in the world." That is the kind of a description that the brotherless girl can't get. Then again, she doesn't hear of men that a fellow would rather not have his sister go with. The wisest course, probably, for her to pursue is to choose as her most intimate friend a girl who has a wise brother; then she can reap the benefit of his counsel.

Some Things to Teach the Girls.

It is the design of the writer to mention in this article three or four things which girls, and especially farmers' girls, should learn which are not included in that classic list beginning with "To wear a calico dress and wear it like a queen."

Farmers' daughters have opportunities freely offered for which young ladies of the city are willing to pay well. One of these is learning horseback riding. This is not only a healthful and graceful accomplishment, but it is often of very great use to a woman, especially in an emergency. The girl should not only learn to ride, but learn how to saddle and bridle her horse, as well as to mount without assistance. It is not necessary to wait until the father is able to purchase a blue plush saddle with leaping horn, double girth, and silver mountings. Many a girl has learned to ride with nothing but a man's saddle, or even no

saddle. Young girls often enjoy riding under circumstances which young ladies would think so adverse as to debar them the pleasure.

A farmer's daughter has no excuse for not learning to drive a team; and by driving must be understood, not simply holding the reins and using the whip while the team goes along a straight road, but turning in confined spaces, backing, guiding the vehicle to one side of obstacles in the wheel-tracks, and turning out to the best advantage when meeting others, not to mention controlling a frightened or spirited team with strength, coolness, and sound judgment. She should learn to harness a team also, to hitch it to the farm wagon or the carriage, with farm harness or buggy harness.

Whether a girl learns to harness a horse or not, she should at least learn how to unharness. How often do we hear of some lady unhitching and unharnessing, in which operation every strap of the harness was unbuckled; or if by chance one was overlooked, it was one which the man who ordinarily did the work was accustomed to loosen. Then to finish the work of anarchy the pair of harness in its dismembered condition was thrown in a confused, tangled heap which would require a man twenty minutes to put to rights. This is an extreme case probably, but not an unknown one, and the milder forms are always with us. Seven times out of ten the inexperienced woman who loosens no more buckles than are necessary will select the off side of the horse as the field for action.

There is no reason why nearly all girls might not learn this useful bit of knowledge, and there is a reason beyond the convenience to themselves, why they should. No true lady will cause another person an inconvenience, unnecessarily. On this ground no lady, who has had opportunities to unharness a horse, has any right to do it in a careless or vexatious manner, even if it is "only the hired man" who will be goaded to words not usually seen in print by her inexcusable ignorance.

These may be taken as examples of the kind of knowledge which girls ought to have, but seldom get. They should learn how to do any of the numerous small things about a house, involving the use of tools, such as sharpening knives, sawing boards, driving nails, hanging pictures and window shades, and many other things which are constantly coming up. The writer remembers the distress of a lady whose front-door lock was broken, when everything it needed was a drop or two of oil. A woman may not need to use this knowledge often, though the chances are that she will, but she will at least be able to judge better of what is necessary, and whether the person she hires to do the work is doing it properly.

One reason why girls do not learn these things is that fathers do not give them the same encouragement in it that they do their sons. If the farmer would explain the action of a self-binding harvester to his daughter as well as to his son, and make this kind of instruction a part of his daily practice, the daughter would not have much trouble with the sewing machine, and the father would not be called upon to oil a squeaky door-hinge, or to drive a nail for the dish-pan.

While the girls are learning some things usually regarded as boys' knowledge, their brothers cannot be doing better than learning the elements of hand and machine sewing, plain cooking and clean dish-washing.—Industrialist.

Moderation in Work.

Take pity on yourself, dear mother, and do not work too hard. You owe more to your dear ones than well-cooked meals and rooms that are kept spotlessly clean at the expense of your health and patience. Rest more, for hard work and over-taxed nerves make a naturally loving, patient woman cross an irritable. The little ones do not understand this, and the husband wonders why wife loses her temper so much sooner than she did in former days.

Let the children give you more help. If it is out of the question to hire a good girl, leave back rooms for Edith to sweep when she comes home from school. The exercise will be good for her and the experience as well. In taking up the household work gradually, she will become familiar with the different details, and lighten your labors very much. Either in a city or country home it is well to require some assistance at her hands; if in the city, it will prevent her spending too much time on the streets, and if it be in the country, these little duties will prevent lonesomeness.

Take the children into your confidence. Tell them that you are tired, and would appreciate their help very much. Gently request them instead of commanding, and unless they are unusually thoughtless and unconcerned, they will be loving, considerate companions, as well as dutiful children.—"Alice," in Woman's Work.

The Old-Fashioned Girl.

There is something that is getting to be awfully scarce in this world. Shall I tell you what it is? It is girls. That is what is missing out of the sentient, breathing, living world just now. We have lots of young ladies and lots of society misses, but the sweet, old-fashioned girls are all vanished.

Let me enumerate a few of the kind of girls that are wanted. In the first place we want home girls—girls who are at mother's right hand; girls who can cuddle the little ones next best to mamma, and smooth out the tangles in the domestic skein when things get twisted; girls whom fathers take comfort in for something better than beauty, and big brothers are proud of for something that outranks the ability to dance or spin in society.

Next we want girls of sense—girls who have a standard of their own, regardless of conventionalities, and are independent enough to live up to it; girls who will wear what is pretty and becoming, and snap their fingers at the dictates of fashion when fashion is horrid and silly.

And we want good girls—girls who are sweet right straight out from the heart to the lips; innocent and pure and simple girls, with less knowledge of sin and duplicity at twenty than the pert little school girl of thirteen has all too often; girls who say their prayers and love God and keep his commandments. (We want those girls awful bad!)

And we want careful girls and prudent girls, who think enough of the generous father who toils to maintain them in comfort, and the gentle mother who denies herself much that they may have so many pretty things, to count the cost and draw the line between the essentials and the non-essentials; girls who strive to save and not to spend; girls who are unselfish and eager to be a joy and comfort in the home rather than an expensive and a useless burden.

We want girls with hearts—girls who are full of tenderness and sympathy, with tears that flow for other people's ills, and smiles that light outward their own beautiful thoughts.

We have lots of clever girls, and witty girls. Give us a consignment of jolly girls, of warm-hearted and impulsive girls; kind and entertaining to their own folks, and with little desire to shine in the garish world. With a few such girls scattered around life would freshen up for all of us, as the weather does under the spell of summer showers.—Chicago Herald.

Buttered Toast.

Butter the slices of bread just as you would to be eaten. Then place in a hot oven. They will brown very quickly, and the bread be soft instead of hard, as toast usually is.

When no tape needle is at hand, or the tape or ribbon is too wide to go through its eye, a handy substitute is a safety pin thrust through the end of the ribbon, clasped, then used as a needle to thread its way through hem or under insertion.

A salve of equal parts of tallow and salt will often cure the worst cases of felons.

Notices of Meetings.

THREE RIVERS, Mich., Feb. 22d, 1892. The next session of St. Joseph County Grange No. 4 will meet at Centerville Grange Hall the first Thursday in April 1892. All 4th degree members are cordially invited.

CHURCH'S CORNERS, Feb. 22d. Hillsdale County Pomona Grange will hold its next meeting at Hillsdale in G. A. R. Hall, March 3d, beginning at 10 a. m. The program prepared for the Feb. meeting, and held over on account of prevailing sickness, will be carried out as far as possible.

Program for Kent County Grange No. 18 which will be held at Courtland Grange Hall on Wednesday March 9th, 1892, 10 o'clock a. m. Making and repairing Highways—C. M. Slayton.

Flowers for a continuous bloom throughout the year—Mrs. Moffit. Suggestions for Country Schools—Mrs. H. G. Holt.

Why should Young People join the Grange—Mrs. S. C. Peterson. The Lecturer of Courtland Grange is invited to add to program with music, recitations, etc.

ED. VISITOR: The Patrons of the North are thriving in spite of the adverse seasons of the past year. In January there was organized by Bro. Carlisle, at Kalkaska, a Pomona Grange with 25 charter members.

What relation does the Grange hold to the outside world—Bro. Wm. Campbell. Home and its adornments—Sister Wm. Campbell.

What food is the most healthful and economical for the farmers table. A Weeks' Course—Sister Ecler.

What should be a young man's highest ambition—Bro. Rosenberg. The work of the young lady in the Grange—Sister May Woolpert.

What should be a young man's highest ambition—Bro. Rosenberg. The culture of corn—Bro. Van Buren.

What should be a young man's highest ambition—Bro. Rosenberg. The culture of corn—Bro. Van Buren. A Song—Sister Wilcox.

In Memoriam. Prairie View Grange Iowa, No. 480 has again been visited by the hand of Death, and removed from our midst our worthy friend and brother C. S. Trobridge who, being feeble for some months departed this life Jan. 20, 1892 age 72 yrs. 11 mo's and 6 days, leaving an aged wife to mourn his loss.

Died at her home in Centerville, on Dec. 13th, 1891 sister Hulda Hazzard a charter member of St. Joseph County Grange No. 4.

Died at his home in Tabins, on Jan. 1st, 1892, Robert S. Griffith a faithful member of St. Joseph County Grange, No. 4.

We announce the death of our venerable brother George Broadbent of Whitneyville Grange No. 222.

What will be the issues of the Presidential campaign? They are forecast in the forthcoming (March) number of the North American Review by Senator James McMillan of Michigan.

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