

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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WHOLE NO. 473.

Memories of Early Michigan.

III.

HON. ENOS GOODRICH.

The year 1838 came, finding the pioneers of Michigan in no flattering condition. The thousands who had been swept into its borders by the tornado of emigration during the years of '36 and '37 had torn out the clothing they brought with them on oak grubs and hazel brush, and had expended the money they brought in extravagant prices for the necessaries of life. Generally their greed for land had prompted them to buy themselves "land poor" on the start, leaving much too small margins for twenty dollar flour and forty dollar pork. It would take volumes to depict their condition. But to add to their misery the season was ushered in by the advent of a period of malarial fevers, which spared neither age, sex, nor conditions, until hundreds, and I might say thousands, of habitations had not well ones enough to take care of the sick. My own case was that of thousands of others, and for fourteen years I never once escaped a course of malarial fever.

The heroism of our pioneer settlers at this trying period has never been half appreciated. Under similar circumstances other communities have appealed to their executives and to the outside world for public aid and private charity, but no such cry went up from Michigan's brave and hardy pioneers. Neither the grasshoppers of Kansas, the drouths of Dakota, nor the fires of Wisconsin ever placed those communities in a worse condition than the Michigan pioneers of 1838. It is true that the fires of Wisconsin and portions of our own state destroyed scores of lives, but not a tenth part of what sank under the influence of our malarial fevers. In later times Michigan has become celebrated for her charities to the sufferers of other states; but the Michigan of that gloomy period called for no outside help.

One memorable measure was adopted by our law makers, which originated in humanity and was dictated by the wants of the people, has met nothing but brainless criticisms and public condemnation. I mean what has been so much stigmatized as the "wild cat" bank laws. Not one out of a hundred of all the thousands who have ridiculed and maligned it have ever condescended to read it. They may yet read it if they will, for it stands upon our early statute books, and those who have the curiosity to do so will find that its provisions were formulated with a fair degree of statesmanlike wisdom. But the pioneers of Michigan were too poor to be bankers.

While we were thus struggling for a foothold in this new territory, Michigan was gradually working its way to statehood under many and peculiar disadvantages to all of which I had time to pay but little attention. The ordinance of 1787 had entitled us to statehood whenever our free white population reached sixty thousand. In 1820 our population had been 1,896, and in 1830 it was 31,639, while a special census in 1834 showed it to have increased to 87,273. Accordingly, in January 1835, the legislative council ordered a convention to assemble in May following, for the purpose of adopting a state constitution. The convention duly met, the constitution was duly formed, and adopted by the people; and on the first Monday in October, 1835, a full set of state officers was elected, and immediately, in November, the legislature assembled and elected Lucius Lyon and John Newell United States Senators. This was playing state when there was no state. Uncle Sam sometimes has a disagreeable way of taking his own time, and in this case he clearly showed that he was not going to be hurried. The Michigan legislators reconvened in February, expecting to find themselves in control of a full fledged state. It was not until June 15 that the bill of admission passed congress, and then it was trammelled up with a condition, that we should give to Ohio a ten mile strip on our southern border, which beyond a doubt fairly and honestly belonged to Michigan. This Uncle Sam tacitly admitted by offering to swap for it the upper peninsula. This took our Wolverine statesmen all aback, and on July 20, 1836, another session of the legislature

convened to consider the dilemma. They ordered a convention which met at Ann Arbor on the 26th of September, and decided against ratifying the "swap." But the people were restive and uneasy, and on the 14th of December another convention met at Ann Arbor in response to a call from the Democratic committee of Wayne county. This last convention

VOTED TO ACCEPT

the terms offered by congress, and though held in defiance of Michigan's legislature, and ridiculed and derided as the "frost bitten convention," it was recognized by congress as the action of the people, and Michigan, shorn of its southern border, was admitted into the Union with the Lake Superior country as a tail to its kite. By coming into the Union when we did, we secured from the general government six hundred thousand dollars, out of a distribution of "surplus revenue," which we must have lost by refusing the terms offered by congress—and more than all, the vexed question of admission was settled; we were then prepared to proceed to business as an independent state.

I will not here discuss the merits of the "swap" except to say that there never was any natural affinity between the two peninsulas, which hang like a pair of old fashioned saddle bags across the Island of Mackinac. Isolated from us as she is by nature, the upper peninsula ought to have been organized into a state by itself, and been left to control its own peculiar industries. As for us, we should have bought her iron and copper just as cheap as now, and the tax for mining schools and legislative junkets would have been saved.

Fostoria.

The Grange and National Legislation.

Master's Office Ohio State Grange:

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR:

I have carefully read the editorial in the VISITOR of August 1, entitled "The Grange and National Legislation," and while I approve of the spirit of the article, I cannot endorse all the suggestions. The value of petitions sent to congressmen or state legislators is very much over-rated, and in my judgment amounts to very little. Petitions are usually presented, as signed by Mr. A. and others, read by title, and then find their way to the waste basket. They are "like the snow flake on the river, a moment white then gone forever." One petitioner with boots on, before the proper committee at the proper time, is worth ten thousand names on paper, in influencing legislation. Bankers don't petition; manufacturers don't petition; railroads don't petition. In fact nobody relies on petitions to carry his measures but the "fool farmer." These others have their case presented *in person* by their ablest men, and they contribute liberally to keep a representative on the ground during a whole session if necessary.

Not "one or two measures," but all measures affecting agriculture, must be watched and aided by our legislative committees. We must not be too modest in asking, but be very sure we ask only for what is right and just. The machinery of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry is admirably adapted to secure the ends hinted at above. The hundreds of thousands of members who are paying the small pittance of of \$1.20 per year into their Grange treasuries are each helping to do this work. How shall we be heard except through a committee? How shall the committee be appointed and supported? All this is carefully provided for in the Grange.

Readers of the VISITOR, if you wish to exert your influence, in behalf of wise and just and needed legislation, do your level best to secure the nomination and election of men who are in hearty and sympathetic accord with our industrial interests, who believe private debtors have some rights as well as public creditors. Rally to the Grange standard, and thus make it possible to keep a legislative committee on the lookout, so that our enemies may not sow our field with tares while we are asleep. Yes, distribute literature and discuss and digest it; but remember that the most effective petition you sign is the one you drop in the slot when your name is recorded on the poll books. Fraternally, F. R. SMITH.

Echoes From the Picnics.

BERRIEN COUNTY.

Berrien county Pomona Grange held its annual camping picnic August 22, 23, and 24, at Pottawatomie Park, a beautiful resort on Lake Michigan, about seven miles north of St. Joseph. Thursday was occupied in spying out the land, pitching tents, and getting ourselves in order. There was a large number of tents on the grounds, Geo. H. Thomas post G. A. R. of Benton Harbor, bringing the camping tents, some of which were placed at the disposal of the Grange.

There was a very general turnout. The weather was fine, the lake in superb condition for boating and bathing, and everybody in humor for a grand good time.

Friday afternoon the following program was given: Music—"Who will to the green-wood hie?" by Mesdames Riley, Smith and Tyler of Twelve Corners Grange; address of welcome, Margaret Farnum; music by the Fair Plain camp; "Farm life and its opportunities," Lissa VanVranken, Bainbridge Grange; "The Chinese question," Mrs. E. Culver; music, Miss Gertrude Dunning, Benton Harbor; "Life, and the wastes of life," Mrs. Sarah Woodruff, Benton Harbor; Recitation, Mattie Stone-cliff; Paper, "Human Work," C. W. Whitehead, Superintendent Berrien county humane society; Music, Mrs. Tyler and Mrs. Smith of Twelve Corners Grange; "Horticultural Progress," J. Sterling, Jr.; Paper, "Lodge Gossipers," Mrs. Emma Hendrix, Benton Harbor; "The Army Canteen," S. B. Kimball, quartermaster of George A. Thomas Post, Benton Harbor; Music, "The sweetest story ever told," Miss Gertrude Dunning, Benton Harbor; Paper, "The work of the W. C. T. U.," Mrs. Eliza M. Bass. Brother and Sister Jason Woodman of Paw Paw were present, and Brother Woodman gave us a pleasant talk on the general interests of the Grange.

A large part of the program remained over for Saturday, but the steady down-pour of rain that set in at the close of Friday afternoon's exercises, and continuing all night and a part of the forenoon Saturday, made the grove too wet for comfort. It was the heaviest rain this section has had since August, 1894, and as this picnic is credited with bringing it about the Grange will stand in high favor with the people of Western Michigan for the balance of the year at least.

Mrs. W. L. Kane distributed a liberal supply of the picnic edition of the GRANGE VISITOR, and took a fair list of yearly subscribers.

W. L. KANE.

IONIA COUNTY.

The Grange could not have made a better choice than the grove of Ionia fair grounds as a place to hold their picnic. It is a roomy and lovely spot, bordering on the banks of Grand river.

The Subordinate Granges of the county were well represented, also the farmers of adjacent towns. The city of Ionia turned out with its citizens, business men, lawyers, and editors to take note of the proceedings day, till the crowd numbered well into five thousand. Good music was furnished by Saranac band, part of them being members of the Grange. The program was begun with recitation, "My Ordeal," by Miss Price of Danby Grange; "Barbara Fritchie," by Master Kitson of Easton; "The farmer as a growler," by little Cassie Rudd, imitating the farmer of the past year; "If he did not grumble at this he would at that." All these were rendered very nicely. Then followed songs by the Danby quartette and Ronold quartette.

Brother David English lectured to the Grange on the finance question. The states of the Union were well represented by 45 young ladies dressed in white, with their red, and white, and blue crowns and sashes, looking very patriotic. They did nobly, Columbia looking very appropriate in her appearance and costume. After the states in concert, Utah came in saying—

"Now Utah's asking to come in,
And you can bet your lives
If she succeeds, her offering
Will be superfluous wives."

After this the states sang, "The farmer feeds us all." Then the president intro-

duced the speaker of the day, Worthy Master, J. H. Brigham. Everyone was waiting patiently for the address, and he held the audience spell-bound for an hour's time with his masterly address. We could see that the brother has failed in voice and health since we last saw him, but his voice rang through the grove. All were pleased, and pronounced the picnic a grand success in all of its undertakings.

After Banner Grange quartette sang "America," the band played several beautiful pieces. This ended a gala day for the Grange and farmers of Ionia county.

Mrs. ANNIE R. BARNARD, Lecturer County Grange.

HURON COUNTY.

Aug. 24 will be long remembered by the Patrons of this vicinity for three reasons. The first was the heaviest fall of rain in more than a year, the second the decorations, and third, Bro. Brigham. The rain began the evening before and at dawn was still at it. The shower changed to mist, then fog, to be followed by bright sunshine between 10 and 11 a. m. An excursion train came earlier in the morning, and of course many were deterred from coming because of the weather. It is needless to say it was poorly patronized. However, brothers from Rural, Charity and Fremont Granges of Sanilac county came, also, from North Burns of Huron county. As it cleared off, others drove in from Colfax, Verona Mills, and Wadsworth Granges—all the way from 12 to 25 miles. Also from Sand Beach and Hope Granges, which are nearer Lake Huron on whose shore, inside the breakwater, is the grove, a favorite resort for picnics. It speaks well of the bond of good feeling when some come from such a distance on such a morning, and proves they are proud of their occupation and also of membership in our Order which seeks to promote and protect the welfare of ourselves and brother farmers.

The universal brotherhood of man which our Order is helping on, was never better exemplified than in the hearty good will manifested toward the tillers of the soil by the citizens and business men of Sand Beach. Royal preparation for decorating had been made in honor of Brother Brigham's coming. It was a tribute of respect to the Grange as well as all farmers because of their occupation. The manifestation of kind respect was not in red, white, and blue with mottoes alone, but with pleasant faces and happy, hearty greeting. At the grove the life-saving station gave an exhibition of their skill, which was interesting.

I expect the next session of Pomona will tender them a hearty vote of thanks. Bro. John Hunt as chairman, next introduced Mr. C. S. Nims, president of the village, who greeted all with a neat address, putting into words the sentiments so plainly manifested. This was responded to by Brother Buchanan in well expressed words of thanks for courtesies tendered. Brother Brigham was next presented. He labored under a severe hoarseness which could not be cleared and necessitated that his remarks be cut short. But these were to the point that farmers must organize for self improvement and benefit. We cannot expect others to do this for us. Let us hope the wisdom of his remarks will be heeded.

HOPE CORRESPONDENT.

THE LENAWEE AND HILLSDALE COUNTY GRANGE ASSEMBLY.

The third Lenawee and Hillsdale Grange Assembly held at Baw Beese park on the 20th of August was one of the largest, if not the largest gathering ever at the park. At an early hour the woods were full of teams that brought the farmers from the surrounding country, and to these were added the living freight of nine excursion trains. At ten o'clock the exercises commenced. The band struck up and the throng came pouring in until the seating capacity of the pavillion was filled, with hundreds yet on the outside. All the speakers advertised were present. Among the most conspicuous were Hon. G. B. Horton, Master of the State Grange, Hon. J. H. Brigham, Master of the National Grange, Hon. J. G. Ramsdell, Ex-Governor Luce and Hon. Thos. Moore. There

(Continued on page 5.)

Field and Stock.

The Drouth.

WM. BALL.

"How are we going to meet these long drouths?" is the question I am asked to answer. Many difficulties lie in the way when one attempts to write on such a topic. Something depends on the time of year in which a drouth appears. This year the weather became dry much earlier in the season than in former years, and many farmers who have not thought much could be accomplished by preparing for them, have been made to suffer much more than the farmers who have availed themselves of much knowledge which has been given on this subject through some of our best agricultural journals, and through the work of farmers' institutes. There is no doubt in my mind but much of the injurious effects of an early drouth like the present one

CAN BE OBIATED.

How shall this be done? First, by early and deep plowing, and thorough fitting before crops are sown or planted, give frequent surface cultivation of the soil after the crop has been put in the ground, both before and after the crop is up, with tools suitable for such work. On sandy and gravelly soils nothing has yet been devised that excels the weeder, Breed's Universal Weeder being safe and good as any other. This tool should be in the hands of all practical farmers whose soil and condition of land is adapted to its use. As a weed killer, if used in the proper time, it has no superior. The time for using it for weed destruction is just as the weeds are preparing to come through the soil. Pulverizing the surface of the soil is a good way to retain moisture. Much is being written now-a-days about

A DIRT MULCH,

and while it is carried too far by theorists as regards its good effects, still the theory is susceptible of practical results. The destruction to weeds, which are thieves of moisture and manure, is another essential factor in warding off the effects in drouths early and late. These statements are not based on theory with me but by actual demonstration. The essentials, then, are early, deep plowing, thorough fitting of land in good condition so far as manuring is concerned before planting or sowing; frequent cultivation before and after the crop is up until it has advanced to a stage where it is best to stop; freeness from weeds, proper thinning of corn in the hill in its early stages. A less amount of seed should be used in a dry season than in a wet one, and as the years seem to be growing more dry yearly, this recommendation seems pertinent. Those who have been in the habit of planting corn, potatoes, and beans nearer together in rows or drills than is admissible in dry seasons, should

GIVE GREATER SPACE

between the rows and hills, which will assist in overcoming the injurious effects of drouth. A number of years since, the writer had a field of twenty odd acres of corn (which was not in as good condition as it should have been,) and which he wished to sow to wheat in the fall and seed down in the spring. The field was planted in rows, one way four feet apart, and four feet the other way, with about four stalks to the hill. The season happened to be very dry, and the corn as ordinarily planted was very poor as to quantity and quality. This piece of corn was very good, both in yield and quality. The ground was thoroughly worked. The yield of wheat the next year was very good, and a good stand of clover was secured. I have worked more or less on this idea of diminishing seed, enlarging the area of land, and whenever this has been done good results have followed, especially if the seasons were dry.

PASTURES.

To meet the drouth so far as pastures are concerned the plan pursued here with good results for a number of years is as follows: The lands intended for pasture the following season, are not pastured late in the fall, nor closely. In the spring, before any stock is allowed on them, the grass must have a good growth. The middle of May is as soon as cattle should be turned out, as the seasons usually run. I have found that it is cheaper to keep stock in the stables and yards quite late than to have it turned into pastures to eat the grass as fast as it grows. Another thing farmers must learn, which is, not to keep so many head of stock on too few acres. Cattle will live very well if they have access to good water when obliged to eat matured June grass or timothy this time of year. Good water is a very necessary feature in the growth and fattening qualities of any kind of stock. It seems to me that farmers must study their environments more, experiment moderately with preventions of drouths and find out what is best for their particular farms.

No positive rules can be laid down that will prove sure but

MUCH CAN BE DONE

to ward off the effects of drouths if what has been said be followed. A rule may be good and effective in the hands of one farmer, and not with another, because the rule was violated in the one case and properly followed in the other. As the years follow one another it seems apparent that the farmer must save the moisture that is available even in dry seasons and he will succeed best who most nearly conforms to the requirement for such purposes. Let no farmer sneer at book farming. Many things can be gleaned from it that will assist the most practised one. Science and practice happily blended are the best means toward success in agriculture as well as in any other business calling.

Shall we Have Eetter Roads? When? How?

S. S. BAILEY.

The county road law has not met the expectation of its friends, nor has it met with the deserved appreciation. When the law was enacted it appeared plain to the best thinking minds of the state and to the legislature that no other law except one similar in kind or a modification of the present one would secure good roads for any long distance, or that would build first-class highways on the main thoroughfares of the country.

In nearly every state where there has been any legislation for good roads the county road system much like our own has been adopted. The most thoughtful and wisest men have come to the conclusion that first-class roads cannot be built on the main thoroughfares of the country on which the masses travel to market and on business unless under the supervision of county authority. Township and district authority will not do it, for such authority will not build with reference to establishing permanent main highways. The state will not, for the next ten or fifteen years, listen to any appeals for help from the state treasury. An amendment to the constitution must be made before any of the railroad or other specific taxes can be used in aid of highway improvement. Is it not plain, then, that if the main highways of the counties and state are to be improved and made first-class highways such as the public need, we must depend on the county road system, with such modifications as will make it more acceptable to the masses and win the hearty support of the farming community? If some portion of the tax for making the main roads and perhaps other roads, was assessed on property adjacent to, and laying within a certain limit of the improved road, the present law as modified would have some friends who are now in opposition. In some states such a law has been the means of improving highways that otherwise might have remained unimproved.

THE COUNTY SYSTEM.

If the county road system is the best system that can be devised at present why has it remained a dead letter in most parts of the state? Mainly because the farming community who would be most benefitted were fearful of a large increase of taxation which they thought they were unable to bear, when so little compensation was being received for agricultural products as compared with the cost of producing the same. There were other causes that operated to defeat the putting of the law into use. Many pretended that the law was enacted mainly in the interests and for the special benefit of those using bicycles. Others opposed the law because they were quite sure that the improved roads would not pass by their farms; others because the law contemplates the employment of three or more competent men on good salaries to lay out and superintend the construction of good roads. Others because good roads to the county seat or principal market towns of the counties would injure dealers located away from market centers and principal cities; others because they could now draw on the present poor roads all they had to sell; and a few of those most able to pay objected because it would so increase the value of their land that they would be unable to pay the taxes on the increased value, as they did not want to sell and did not want their land to increase in value until they were ready to sell. Others because with good roads their wives would oftener want to accompany them to the city or village, and share with them the pleasure and health-giving influence that riding over a good road gives. And not a few were objecting because the idea of permanent improved highways did not originate with them. Opposition to the bicycle men is fast dying out.

THE TIDE TURNING.

The objectors have had their say and day, and are getting not a little ashamed of their opposition to the permanent improvement of the main highways, and would gladly welcome any system or plan that would supersede the present want of system, provided their taxes would not be materially increased. Any system that threatens to increase taxes is looked upon

with suspicion. The people now see more clearly as never before that there is no hope for much better roads without a change from road making as now practiced. Fairly good roads in many places but they intersect with roads almost impassable, and at times wholly impassable with loaded teams.

WHAT WE MOST NEED

now is a mile or more in every township in the county of first-class roads, built under the supervision of a competent engineer who understands road making. We want such as object lessons to the people. When the people have learned that such roads can be constructed at a moderate cost with our present facilities for getting good material, and without excessive taxation, there will be an awakening for better roads and a demand for such action as will secure without further delay desirable highways on all the main traveled roads of the country and much better roads in the township. Toll roads are not object lessons, as we have no interest in them and know nothing about their cost, either of construction or maintenance, and there is scarcely one that can be called a first-class highway. They are built and kept in repair (?) so as to just barely answer the law and get the toll. We need a law defining somehow how a road should be built that has the benefit of public money. The first and

MOST IMPORTANT REQUISITE

in improving any road is to underdrain the same unless the subsoil be of such nature as to furnish natural underdrainage. Water under the roadbed is more than ten times as destructive to a good road than water on top of the road. That on top can get away, or the wind and sun will take it up; that below the roads have no means of escape. Thousands of dollars are wasted each year in making and repairing highways, the roadbeds of which are not properly underdrained. Many of our clay roads that are so bad in spring and fall would be at such times comparatively good if the side ditches were properly made and kept open for the free passage of water, and the roadbed was underlaid with three or four inch tile at the proper depth and with proper fall and outlet. You can not improve such a road as cheaply and so permanently as with tile.

CONTINUED AGITATION

is needed of the question of how best to improve our highways and what additional legislation should be had to so satisfy the people that they will earnestly and with enthusiasm engage in the work and prosecute the same with unremitting vigor until we have the main traveled highways of the state such as will challenge the admiration of all those whose business and interests compel them to use them as well as those who travel for pleasure and health.

Farmers' clubs and similar organizations and the Grange should discuss the question frequently before the meeting of the next legislature, that they may be able to ask without impairing the present law, such additional legislation, if any is needed, and such as will make the county road law more acceptable to the masses, and decide upon some plan of action whereby the end sought, good roads, will be secured to all the people in the state.

East Paris.

Lameness In Horses.

JOHN F. BUTTON.

Although lameness in farm horses is very common, there are very few persons who handle them and have their care, that can correctly diagnose and locate the trouble. Let the lameness be where it will, in the feet, ankle, knee or shoulder, back or hip; each has its own peculiar symptoms and characteristics. Therefore it behooves the owner to study carefully symptoms and motions of each part that he may make no mistake in locating the trouble. The

MOST COMMON LAMENESS

among farm horses is in the feet. And I am sorry to say that many such cases become permanently lame; this not because this particular form of lameness is very hard to cure, but from the fact that he is seldom very lame, is usually able to work, at times is but little if any lame; but the trouble is sure to return. Usually some neighbor's advice is followed and some simple remedy used: The blacksmith removes the shoe, and as nothing is found wrong with the bottom of the foot, it is usually decided that the lameness is in the shoulder. Especially is this the case if the muscles of the shoulder are shrunken, as they will be if the horse has been pointing, or standing with one foot out in front. Now atrophy, or sweeney, as it is commonly called, is not a sure indication that the trouble is in the shoulder. Sweeney will usually occur if the horse points or rests the lame foot; this relieves the muscles of the shoulder of performing their proper functions and they soon perish. Sweeney can usually be cured by blistering or setous, or by air blown under

the skin. If lameness in the foot is allowed to continue long, contractions of the hoof is sure to follow; then in nine cases out of ten the horse is permanently lame.

Now as to the

CURE OF LAMENESS

in the foot: First, the horse should be laid up; then soak the foot in very warm water until very soft; then blister around the top of the foot for an inch above the hoof. Grease after two days, then wash and grease every day until the scab is off and the hair starts out well; then if not well, repeat the blister again. Sometimes it is necessary to blister several times; better be thorough on the start, as it is dangerous to let this kind of lameness run any great length of time. If possible let the horse stand on the ground. I would rather keep him up than turn him out, as he might run, and we would loose all our efforts.

SHOEING.

Now a few words in regard to shoeing. I believe if a horse is properly shod he can have good sound feet all his life. I think the first mistake the average blacksmith makes is in paring out the bottom or sole of the foot. I never allow anything but the loose scales to be taken from the bottom of the foot. Get the foot level. Pare, or rasp the wall down level with the sole, open out the heel each side of the frog, but leave the frog as full as possible. In regard to the shoe, I would not bevel it at all; leave it flat so that it will rest equally on the sole and wall. Bevel it on the ground surface. After the shoe is set, if the frog comes to or near the ground, all the better. The use of the frog is to receive the weight of the horse and thus keep the foot expanded.

Olds.

Profitable Pork Production.

Going back to my earliest recollection, our hogs were mongrels, a mixture of many breeds, but even at that early day the blood of the Berkshire and Essex hogs showed distinctly, and the best qualities of our hogs, in my judgment, come from these breeds and contributed largely to the make-up of our Poland-China hog. When I moved to Ohio in 1848, the Poland-China breed was not fully established, but was in the process of evolution.

These hogs were then comparatively coarse and heavy-boned, with neither form nor color fixed, but were a great improvement on the razor-back, wind-splitter hog of the woods, which was the prevailing type of a hog of that day, and I have seen the objectionable qualities bred out and the desirable qualities established, until for health and vigor, beauty and form, uniformity of shape and color, and early maturity, they are excelled by none.

While the Poland-China is my choice, I have only words of praise for a number of other breeds, with which I am familiar, and I have learned that we have no domestic animal that is more susceptible of improvement under intelligent management than the hog, and to-day there is not much to choose between the best type of Chester White, Berkshire, Essex, Red Victoria and Poland-China, and where a man has valuable brood sows of mongrel breed, with large frames and good qualities as mothers, and wants to raise pork hogs, I would advise the crossing with Berkshire or Essex males, but as this cross-bred progeny would not make good breeding stock, I would advise the young farmer to begin with thoroughbred stock.

Begin with stock of good constitution, and then let your care of the animals be such as to insure health and vigor. It has been a serious fault of our breeders who have grown stock for shipment, that they have considered it necessary to overfeed with corn to get their stock into what they call shipping order, and much of the stock has been made fat enough for the butcher, and permanently injured.

While the food of the young breeding stock should be liberal and nutritious, it should not be heating and fat-producing, and should consist largely of such food as builds up bone and muscle, rather than fat; and if I were sending to these professional breeders for pigs I would get them at 8 or 10 weeks old, and then I would know that they had not been injured by stuffing with corn, and I could raise them on food that would give right development. I think it of great importance that the pair of animals you start with, and from which the herd is to be reared, should be of healthy stock and rightly reared.

Let the feed of your breeding stock, during the growing period, consist largely of bran, oil meal and house slops, with as much green food as they will eat, and while they do not need to range over the farm, they ought not to be confined to a pen or house, but should have a small grass lot to run in. I would never breed a sow to farrow before she was a year old, and think that she should rear but one litter during her second year; but after that, with good care, she will raise two litters a year, until from five to eight years old.

I consider mature sows much superior to

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WOMAN'S WORK.

The Child.

FLORA C. BUELL.
Stories.

With pictures come the stories, and as the understanding and imagination increase, the story alone. From the earliest period it has been a happy thought of mankind to nourish the mind of a child with truths served pleasing to the taste. Thus early he may receive traditional and modern history, knowledge of other lands as well as his own, scientific facts, and catch glimpses of all the varied elements of character.

To tell a story well is as great an art as to render a song effectively. Simple language, grace and feeling in expression, unstudied gestures, and impromptu sketches, aid in keeping the eye and ear of the listener.

There is no dearth of material. The greatest question is what to leave out. First and best of all are Bible stories. Touching and beautiful in themselves, the mere letter of the Word is useful to the child, and memory ever holds them as a skeleton about which the mature mind gathers the living flesh and blood, the spiritual meaning.

STORIES OF NATURE

never fail to arouse interest. The little drop of water is thoughtfully followed as it leaves its home in the deep blue sea, mounts up, is carried over the land, falls to water the earth, and by way of springs, brooklets, and rivers finds its way back to its brothers and sisters. The maple leaf prettily tells that it wears a green dress because all other colors are absorbed but that; when the fairies with red and blue dresses are kind and loving and put their arms closely about each other they find the reflection in the water shows them to be decked in lovely violet.

What wonderful tales of past ages the stones, coal, and chalk can tell! Surely they will be handled and honored as never before. Neither would we pass by the lives of our trees, plants, birds, insects, fishes, and animals. Each has had some experience which will enlarge the scope of a human life.

The race of man claims attention, whether he lives in a rude hut and eats from a clay plate dried in the sun, or is a king of the nineteenth century. What pleasure is taken by a group of children fancying they are gathering tropical fruits or sitting in the sand in Africa, riding elephants in India, following a trail with the Indians, or living as did little Agonack in her snow house?

The hero and wanderer appear and reappear in literature because they find sympathetic response in the hearts of humanity; they attract us at all stages of life whether in form of the victorious birdling and lost ball, or Hector and Ulysses. History is ever at hand with

INTERESTING CHARACTERS.

Now is the time to know something of those who have been foremost in peace and war, and of those who have struggled against opposition and ignorance.

Glimpses into standard literature, chosen by a wise parent, will prove guide-posts to the future student. Picture to him with appropriate setting Homer's proud Achilles, contemptible Paris and fair Helen, Shakespeare's stormy kings, devoted women, learned philosophers, and witty fools, or help him to an acquaintance with Dickens' boys and George Eliott's struggling Maggie and golden-haired Effie.

Feed a mind with wise and pure thoughts and the unclean will be smothered.
Ann Arbor.

An Endorsement.

We clip the following from *The Grange Bulletin*, quoting also the remarks in *Visitor* which brought out the comment:

The views of Sister Helen A. Barnard, as published in the *GRANGE VISITOR*, are worthy the most serious consideration of the Grange, which is the sworn defender of woman's rights, legally, politically and every other way. The man or woman who, in this day of progress, will treat this subject with indifference cannot surely love justice and desire the right to prevail. The *Bulletin* suggests that these questions be made special subjects for action at National and State Granges. Agitation upon such subjects are needed to arouse our people to their importance. The following appeal is worthy of the best action of the Order:

"Patrons, while we are discussing the unit school system, and other matters of importance, there is one thing that should not be left out, namely, woman's right and property. A woman may have wealth; at her marriage she gives her husband control of it in his own name. He dies; she has by law the use of a third of his real estate. A young man marries a wife; they begin single handed together to work for a home; she works more hours than her companion, from year to year; does

without many things that she really needs, that she may have the means to get what she needed. Years pass on; he is taken by death from her; she can have only the use of a third of their hard earnings. In the name of common sense where is the justice? Must women ever be trampled upon in this way? Will the law makers ever see that justice is done her? Never, unless they are made to powerfully feel her injustice. Is there no one to speak in her behalf among the sterner sex? Listen to the wail of a woman's woe in her helpless condition."

Feminine Bicycling.

Individual physicians not only approve of cycling for women, but the profession as a whole is putting itself on record in the affirmative. At recent meetings of the various medical societies the topic of bicycling for women has been the subject of papers and of discussions in which the masculine opinions of specialists in feminine diseases have been almost unanimously in favor of the exercise, not only for pleasure, but because of its health invoking propensities. Dr. Charles W. Townsend sums up his answers to the doubting Thomases who ask why the sewing machine is not "just as good" and more becoming to women, by contrasting the relative virtues of the two machines in a parallel column as follows:

BICYCLE.	SEWING MACHINE.
Out-of doors.	Indoor.
Mental recreation.	Monotonous task.
Body erect.	Body bent over.
Increased circulation.	Stasis of blood in lower limbs and pelvic organs due to bent position.
Vision not concentrated.	Eyes fixed on fine points.
Exercise consisting of sweeping movements of legs and thighs, together with the use of all body muscles in swaying motion of balancing, together with more or less use of arms.	Exercise limited to restricted movements of lower legs.
Exercise demands deep inspirations.	Exercise so slight deep inspiration not required.

He has taken the trouble to ask successful women physicians what their practice discloses of arguments for and against wheeling for women, and of 18 who do not even themselves ride a bicycle not one has a dissenting voice to raise and has a decidedly good word to say in favor of wheeling.

Dr. Townsend speaks out strongly against women riding up hill after they begin to feel the exertion of doing so to be irksome. Better dismount and walk up, he says, the change being good in itself, and forbidding the possible strain to the rider which is quite probable if she be a woman. Physicians say

BETTER SADDLES

are needed. Dealers say they will produce them when some one is clever enough to invent a saddle for women's wheels which will answer all the objections made to those now in use. The wheels on the market are very similar to each other. One machine has a saddle that can be elevated to a vertical position while the rider is mounting, thus giving her more room to get her dress over the bar and into position; but those who do not ride this style of wheel claim that the seat is likely to get out of position in jolting over an obstacle, etc., and throw the rider.

Dr. Clement Cleveland, the New York specialist, and a cousin, by the way, of President Cleveland, and Dr. Townsend, and all physicians, disapprove strongly of century runs for women, and of very long and hard runs under any circumstances.

Tailors who are making high-priced bicycle suits recommend a

CORSET

that is very short over the hips and not high in the bust, and of light weight coutil. The woven underwear which has not a superfluous inch of material, is worn practically universally by women who ride or indulge in athletic exercises of any sort, but there is scarcely a week passes that someone does not offer a new idea in dress to suit the conservatism or liberalism of some rider. For those who make their dresses at home and cannot struggle with the complicated internal machinery in some of the patent skirts, who cannot bring themselves to knickerbockers, and do not like to ride in long skirts, a New York girl has designed a skirt which has won encomiums from all who have seen it.

Before she mounts it looks like a natty round waist and gored skirt. The skirt is trimmed a little; the trimming consists of six straps, two in front, one on each side and two in back. These are pointed at each end and stitched on the edges, and reach from about four inches below the belt to a point six or seven inches lower down. They are fastened at each end with ornamental buttons. When the wearer is ready to mount she unbuttons the top of each strap, and buttons it to a button corresponding to it on the belt. This lifts the skirt to the desired point, does not make any appreciable difference in the size of the

skirt about the body and does not alter the rather picturesque appearance of the dress. As the rider wheels away the straps seem to be of the ornamental fashion of the slashes used in the reign of Francois II and other courtly persons. Any skirt can be looped up in this fashion in a minute and unlooped in another one.

Bikers are warned every time one of them falls ill and into the hands of a physician, not to take a

COLD BATH

to refresh herself when she comes in from a run on her wheel. It is not only not good, but it is positively dangerous to do so. The bath should be a warm one, followed by the briefest of cool sponges. The bath should not be taken within one hour of eating a full meal, nor within three hours after eating. A good many women bicyclers have learned that their hats can be made much more comfortable, whatever they are, if a couple or four air eyelets are put in on each side of the crown. This is done for very few cents by any hatter, as he has a way of forcing the eyelets in in less time than it takes to speak of it, protecting the holes by means of the small, hard fends of rubbers which show on the side of men's derby hats. Strange that women do not think of having these eyelets put in all their hats, for their hat pins to operate through instead of ruining their chapeaux with the pin thrusts that are so ugly.

GUM CHEWING,

which has been taken up to such a distressing extent by women riders to accelerate the flow of saliva and prevent the "dry throat" which is the accompaniment of most riders of any extent, induces a faint and all-gone feeling which is much more distressing than the trouble the gum is used to allay. Excessive drinking of cooling liquids is deprecated also, and the poor bicyclist is at a loss to know what she can do to add permanently instead of merely temporarily to comfort.

Those whose opinions are worthy of credence say that the stomach does not need drink so often as the mouth and throat do; therefore, it would be better for the rider in the end and just as satisfying at the time, if, instead of swallowing a great glass of liquid, she rinsed her mouth with water a few times, then held a sip of cold water in the mouth, throwing the head far back to let the water go as low in the throat as possible, threw this water away and finally swallowed a sip or two.—*Dinah Sturgis, in Our Grange Homes.*

Do Women Nag?

Mrs. Lyman Abbott Writes on the Subject of Nagging.

A well-known physician, a student of health as well as disease, has called out indignant denials by printing his opinion that they do. He has done it in the most considerate way, reminding one of the person who, in calling another a liar, said he did not mean it opprobriously but merely stated it as a fact. And the denials are made in a fashion quite too feminine. "It isn't so, and besides there is good excuse for it," our defenders say. Nervous irritability, a narrowing and belittling sphere, the constant presence of obnoxious persons—what wonder that human nature exhibits unlovely traits under these provocations? It will do us no harm to look this accusation fairly in the face and see whether it be a familiar of ours, with a new and ugly name. There is no dictionary at hand, and I cannot verify my definition, but I suppose that what is meant by the word "nagging" is a constant repetition of petty reproach or command. It is a habit which every conscientious housekeeper and every thoughtful mother is very much in danger of weaving for herself, and for fear of which many a woman "lets things go," to the injury of her home and her children. How often the tired mother has "picked up" after husband and children, or done the forgotten errand, rather than seem to be "nagging."

It does fall to the lot of women to do most of the so-called training of children. In many cases it is truly the blind leading the blind, and the untrained training.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

The Juveniles.

The Snail.

Tell me something about the snail. The snail has a hard shell. When the snail takes a walk, it crawls along with its shell on its back.

Yes, I have heard that the snail carries its house on its back. Poor snail! I should not like to carry a house on my back.

The snail has horns on its head, it has two short horns and two long ones.

Each long horn has an eye at the end of it.

That is very funny—an eye at the end of a horn!

Sometimes the snail climbs up a tree.

It likes to be under a flat stone when snow is on the ground.—*Ex.*

Lena's Camel.

Lena was a little "Fresh Air Fund" orphan. All winter she had been sick in a hospital, where her chief amusement was studying an "animal book" that a nice old lady had brought to her—one that the nice old lady had when she was a little girl. Lena spent hours studying the pictures, and was never so happy as when some visitor, with a real or assumed fondness for natural history, would sit patiently by her couch, and study with her the long list from "A" to "Z." All the animals in the book were of about the same size, though the lamb, perhaps, may have been a trifle larger than the camel. Such a round, smooth, chubby creature as that "animal book" lamb was! But Lena was sure it was true to nature, because it looked exactly like the china lamb given her by the same old lady.

The long winter wore away, and Lena grew well enough to leave the hospital; but she dreaded going back to the dismal alley where she had lived since her mother died. An old woman had taken her, and made her more than earn her living by selling flowers and matches; and it was while trying to get out of the way of a heavy team while crossing the street that she had fallen and received the injury for which she was taken to the hospital.

So you can guess how pleased she was when the nurse told her that a kind lady wanted her to come and stay with her at her home in the country for a whole month.

It was a beautiful morning in June when the stage drew up with a grand flourish at Mrs. May's door, and Mrs. May herself came down the steps to greet the little stranger. She was wild with delight at the beautiful sights all around her, and after dinner she danced out of doors, and down across the field. Suddenly she heard a queer sound, and out from behind a big rock bounced a queer-looking, dingy creature that humped its back as it bounced along toward her, still making those queer little noises. Lena gave one startled look.

"Oh, oh! a camel, a camel!" she shrieked. And then how she ran!

Obadiah, the hired man, who was working in the next field, tried to stop her, but it was of no use. She never stopped till she was safe in the pantry, with all the doors shut behind her. The impish creature pursued her all the way, but could not quite catch up with her, and was left on the kitchen step.

"Why, what can be the trouble, dear?" anxiously queried astonished Mrs. May.

"A camel chased me!" sobbed Lena.

Mrs. May hastened to the door, and there, calmly grazing, was Don, the cosset lamb.

"That a lamb?" gasped Lena. "Why, I thought lambs were smooth and white and round, not dingy and rough, with knobby legs."

"He will be smoother and whiter when he grows older," said Mrs. May.

"I'm sure I'll never like him," sobbed Lena, still quivering from her fright and flight.

But when she found that Don was only playing, she soon got acquainted with him, and many a gay romp they had together.

When the month was gone, Mrs. May decided that she couldn't part with Lena. Mr. May declared they couldn't keep house without her, and when her birthday came, he gave her Don for a birthday present.

And what do you think Don does? He gives his beautiful fleece, every spring, to buy a big box full of the loveliest books and toys for the little children at the hospital where Lena learned in the "animal book" how lambs do not look.—*Minnie L. Upton, in Sunday School Times.*

Guest—"By Jove, I've eaten such a hearty dinner that I guess I'll have to go upstairs and sleep it off." Hotel clerk—"In that case, we'll have to charge you with a meal taken to your room."—*Life.*

The "Press" of Bowers, Delaware, States as Follows:

Dr. Thomas Hubbard's ten thousand dollar house has been painted with O. W. Ingersoll's liquid rubber paint manufactured in Brooklyn, N. Y., and Mr. A. W. Williams, the supervisor, deserves much credit for his artistic workmanship. Those who have used Ingersoll's paints know that they have saved money, as it is the best ready mixed paint used.

See Adv. Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paint.

Many amateur growers plant trees with enthusiasm and then grow discouraged over bores and rabbits; over spraying and pruning; over curculio and knots and lice and mice and grubs. They are the growers who will never glut the markets. They are a great help to the nurseries and give the progressive orchardist a chance to sell his superior products.—*J. C. Evans.*

You should take the *Visitor*. It is the paper that fairly represents the agricultural class of Michigan.

THE GRANGE VISITOR

CHARLOTTE, MICH.

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OUR WORK.

The following has been approved by the State Grange as a fair statement of the objects the Grange of Michigan has in view, and the special lines along which it proposes to work. We hope every Grange in the state will work earnestly in all these departments, so that by a more united effort we shall rapidly increase our numbers, extend our influence, and attain more and more completely those ends which we seek.

OUR OBJECT

is the Organization of the Farmers for their own Improvement, Financially, Socially, Mentally, Morally.

We believe that this improvement can in large measure be brought about:

1. (a.) By wider individual study and general discussion of the business side of farming and home keeping.
- (b.) By co-operation for financial advantage.
2. (a.) By frequent social gatherings, and the mingling together of farmers with farmers, and of farmers with people of other occupations.
- (b.) By striving for a purer manhood, a nobler womanhood, and a universal brotherhood.
3. (a.) By studying and promoting the improvement of our district schools.
- (b.) By patronizing and aiding the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations in their legitimate work of scientific investigation, practical experiment, and education for rural pursuits.
- (c.) By maintaining and attending farmers' institutes; reading in the Reading Circle; establishing and using circulating libraries; buying more and better magazines and papers for the home.
4. (a.) By diffusing a knowledge of our civil institutions, and teaching the high duties of citizenship.
- (b.) By demanding the enforcement of existing statutes and by discussing, advocating, and trying to secure such other state and national laws as shall tend to the general justice, progress and morality.

How did you like our Picnic Edition?

Sixty counties are ready to hold an institute next winter.

We had intended to speak at length of the new trade circular, but space forbids for the present.

We call the special attention of Granges to the "Notice" from the Secretary of the State Grange which appears on page 8 of this issue.

A. Prosser, Secretary of Brighton Grange, says the Patrons in his section are arousing from their annual nap, (Brightoning up as it were,) and propose a campaign in the interest of all farmers. Brighton Grange purchased its binding twine through the VISITOR's liberal advertisers, H. R. Eagle & Co.

We call special attention to the article in this issue by Bro. Crosby. We regret to say that the copy was misplaced in some way, at the printing office, and was not found until after the picnic edition had appeared. The article was intended for that edition, and we beg Bro. Crosby's pardon for the seeming neglect although the fault was not ours.

The three editorials in this issue entitled "The strength of the Grange," "The Weakness of the Grange," and "The Future of the Grange," were intended, together with the editorial in the issue of August 15, entitled "The Objects of the Grange," to form a series, for the picnic edition. But the limitations of space "broke the combination." If our readers will take the four articles together, our purposes will be clearer.

A new 40 page pamphlet in regard to the Grange and what it has accomplished, with suggestions and instructions to Grange workers, has just been issued from the office of the Lecturer of the National Grange. This is a standard work which will be of much value to the Order. Copies can be obtained by writing to the Master or Secretary of the State Grange, or by applying to Alpha Messer, Lecturer of the National Grange, Rochester, Vermont.

THE STRENGTH OF THE GRANGE.

The strength of the Grange lies, first, in union. What one man cannot do, frequently two men can do. What two men cannot accomplish, often ten men can bring about. What ten men are unable to attain

may be attainable by a multitude of men. Union is the new gospel of business, and the secret of success in many other modern enterprises. The Grange seeks to unite the farmers of this country into one body, that there may be accomplished certain desirable ends which isolated and individual farmers could never hope to achieve.

Mere union, however, is often valueless. A mass of men might form an army in number, but unless they are organized and disciplined they would be inefficient—worse than useless. Hence the Grange has a ritual, forms, committees. Beginning with the National Grange as a center, and going down through state, county, and local Granges, we find an organized body. Men not only unite in the Grange, but they find their places, and are given work to do. The Grange has a government, and a strong one, though one thoroughly American. The Grange is in some sort an army—an army of yeoman, clad in the panoply of the sovereign people, disciplined, centralized, strong in the knowledge of real power.

The Grange is also strong in its high purposes. We have enumerated some of them in another column. Many organizations which are often praised seek to help their membership to greater power or profit. The Grange seeks similar ends, but not these alone. For the Grange purposes to make of its members better men and women. It endeavors to compel its members to earn their right to recognition in the selfish world by inciting them to self-improvement in every department of their nature. The Grange seeks to improve, uplift, broaden, educate. No society outside of church walls has nobler or broader motives.

The Grange is strong, and has been notably fortunate, in its membership. Not all the best farmers have been or are in the Grange. But it is true that the Grange is largely composed of those people who in their own communities are the most capable, prosperous, and honorable. If one wishes to know the sentiment of the solid, thoughtful farmers, he will not go astray if he accepts as such sentiment the formally expressed convictions of the Grange.

But if the Grange has been fortunate in its membership, it has been doubly so in its leadership. Rare spirits conceived it and nurtured its infancy, and rare men have molded its development to maturity. We do not fear to affirm that, in lofty patriotism, breadth of vision, genuine culture, love of justice, practical sense, the recognized leaders of the Grange will bear comparison with the founders of our country—they were cast in the same heroic mold.

The Grange is strong because it is conservative. All reforms need John Baptists, —unusual, radical, fierce men. But the work of practical reformation is usually done by level-headed mortals. The Grange rarely gets off the track. It is not often found advocating wild theories. Its expressions are usually the result of deliberation. It knows it is right, and goes ahead. This conservative spirit has been and always will be a tower of strength.

Another reason why the Grange is strong lies in the fact that it admits the whole family. Family life is the bed rock of morality and civilization. The Grange makes the family the bed rock of its organization. A Grange meeting is not solely a meeting of men to confer, nor of women to gossip, nor of youth to be gay, but a joining of family groups into a greater family. All that is best, and purest, and wisest, and most beautiful in home life can find expression in Grange life. Here, probably, is the great secret of Grange strength.

Such are some of the greatest sources of strength in the Grange.

THE WEAKNESS OF THE GRANGE.

It is not always pleasant to enumerate the weak points in a cause or institution we love. But sometimes it is very profitable to recognize and acknowledge these weaknesses, especially if we make them incentives to improvement.

That the Grange has weak points will hardly be disputed by the most ardent Patron. We believe however that the chief sources of weakness which exist are not inherent to the organization of the Grange, but are due in most cases to the failure of human nature to live up to its opportuni-

ties. The "workableness" of the machinery of the Grange is a tribute to the practical wisdom of its founders. The failure of many to properly use this machinery is in our judgment the chief reason why the Grange is not more powerful than it is to-day.

Paradox as it may seem to be, we nevertheless assert that the great weakness in the actual work of the Grange is lack of organization. Wherever Grange endeavor lags it will usually be found that the work is loosely organized, that the ritual is laxly enforced, that committees do not perform their duties, that there is no plan or system. When we find the Grange failing to secure legislation, it will usually be noticed that there has not been a united and continued effort to command the attention of legislators. Almost everything the Grange fails to do can be traced to this cause. Almost everything which the Grange accomplishes can be traced to the fact of organized effort to obtain it.

This lack of organization leads to the mention of another weakness, which in our judgment is the real source of failure to organize, failure to accomplish, failure to live—and that is lack of appreciation of the real purposes of the Grange and the methods of attaining them. We are told that, twenty years ago, many farmers rushed into the Grange, expecting to be able, by their membership therein, to save many dollars every year. The financial side of the Grange was the chief side to them. In latter days the members seem to have come to an appreciation of the grand educational purposes of the Order. Nevertheless there are many members who seem only to generalize upon these topics. They say, "The Grange is an educator;" but when it is proposed to discover how the Grange can help practically in securing better schools, they have nothing to say or do. They own that the Grange is for social culture, yet they often shrink from the path it is necessary to travel in order to get social culture. They believe that the Grange should advocate legislation, but they are too often content with resolutions, forgetting that the Grange must get as well as ask legislation. So along the whole line. Too many of us believe in a general way that the Grange has certain grand objects in view. But when it comes to originating and fighting for certain specific measures which would aid in the attainment of those objects, we often fail. Thus we say that the Grange would be much stronger if its members appreciated its real purposes, and the steps necessary to accomplish those purposes.

Another source of weakness in the Grange, as in all other organizations, is in the failure of so many members to do their share. Under the cloak of modesty or inability, they put off from their shoulders the just burdens they should bear.

There are two other characteristics of Grange work that might be named, which are perhaps unavoidable, but which in many Granges hinder the best work. One of them is the fact that some people are interested in but one or two lines of thought, and if a program is presented with subjects outside their realm of thought, they are uninterested. The other is that in many Granges the old people and the young people do not work well together. Perhaps in many cases where this is true, the old people have withered hearts, and the young people frivolous minds, but true it is in some instances. These faults cannot be remedied except in the intelligence and fraternal spirit of the members.

We have been frank in dealing with this subject, but we have been true to what we have seen, and have tried not to be unkind.

THE FUTURE OF THE GRANGE.

What the Grange has done can be read of all men. What the Grange has in mind to do is the argument for its existence. What the Grange may actually accomplish no man knoweth. That the Grange will achieve its ideal is not a possibility; that it may prove a mighty force in making for justice and righteousness in the land is a probability. What the Grange shall accomplish depends on three things: First, the objects the Grange strives for; second, the distinctness with which those objects are kept in view; third, the steadiness of

effort with which these objects are pursued.

The objects of the Grange are stated succinctly in "Our Work," which stands at the head of these columns. If all Patrons get and keep these specific ends well in mind, and pursue them with patience and persistence for a quarter of a century, the work accomplished will be beyond our dreams. To the young men of this state who expect to make farming their business we say: Look over "Our Work," make up your mind to join the Grange in striving for these ends. No age or organization ever offered young men better opportunity to do valiant work for agriculture and for the nation than the Grange does to-day.

It is not always safe to prophesy. But if our young men embrace their opportunities, we feel safe in saying that the next twenty-five years will witness the greatest movement for the betterment of the agrarian classes the world has ever seen. And it is needless to say that we believe that this movement will be carried along in and by the Grange.

A Good Word.

DEAR BROTHER BUTTERFIELD: I am greatly pleased with the Picnic Edition of the GRANGE VISITOR. The articles of Bros. Luce, Mars, and Woodman are worth ten times the annual subscription for the paper.

Why can't you send me say, 50 copies for distribution from this office?

Fraternally Yours,
JOHN TRIMBLE.

A Comedy of Errors.

Brother John K. Campbell sends us the following card: "EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: In VISITOR of August 15 the type made me say some things I didn't say, as follows: "poor mint crop" should read "poor fruit crop," no mint grown here; "eat well" should be "feed well," "average in beans" should be "acreage in beans." "Wheat average" should be "wheat acreage," "unsanctified monopolies" should be "unsanctified monosyllables, and "import industry" should be "infant industry."

J. K. CAMPBELL.

A Narrow Escape.

National Master Brigham has an Uncomfortable Experience.

We quote the following from the *Grand Rapids Democrat* of August 31:

"What came near being another fatal shooting affair occurred last night, some unknown miscreant discharging a revolver or rifle at the Grand Rapids and Indiana train from the north, due in this city at 10 o'clock. The train had passed the Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee junction and when in the neighborhood of the Widdicombs furniture factory, the occupants of the last coach—the parlor car—were startled by the report of a gun, accompanied by the crashing of a bullet through the car windows. The bullet entered from the west side of the car, taking a diagonal course, and passed out of the rear window. J. H. Brigham of Delta, O., was occupying one of the rear seats, directly in the course of the bullet, but escaped injury by what seems almost a miracle. He had been talking with three other gentlemen, A. L. Braisted and George Heinzelman of this city, and E. E. Wooley of Cleveland, O., and the conversation had turned on the subject of train robbers. Mr. Brigham has served several years as sheriff in Ohio, and had just leaned forward in his seat to illustrate some incident connected with making an arrest, when the shot was fired, the bullet passing directly over his chair, so close his head that he plainly felt the wind caused by its passage. Had he been sitting upright the ball would undoubtedly have struck him in the head. Mr. Wooley, who was sitting across the aisle was hit in the face by broken glass, cutting him just enough to bring blood. The train was half an hour late, passing the scene of the shooting about 10:20. The police were notified and detectives were sent out, but the absence of any clue whatever makes it a hard matter to ferret out the perpetrator, or determine whether it was intentional or accidental."

Bro. Brigham was returning from the farmers' picnic at Traverse City. The editor of the VISITOR was aboard the same train, but was in the day coach, and until the next morning was unaware of Bro. Brigham's presence on the train or of this narrow escape.

It Pays and Costs Less.

Washington Co. 5-19-94.

Mr. O. W. Ingersoll,
Dear Sir: Having used considerable of your Rubber Paints, am pleased to say that it has given entire satisfaction, and costs less than a much poorer article.

Yours truly,
G. M. WHITFORD.
See Adv. Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints.

Moral Influence of The Grange.

A. J. CROSBY, JR.

It is natural for us to think of lessons in morality, moral influence, and character building, as pertaining to childhood and youth. We picture in our minds in connection with the thought, our view of a loving mother, to break over whose rules, lessons, and admonitions brings remorse stinging our conscience, holding back upon the evil doer even miles away from her presence, or years after her life-work is finished. Following in hand with this home influence, we bring that of Sunday school to carry on the work, leading and keeping through the years to manhood and womanhood, leaving the closing care to church. We come far short of measuring the power and capacity of these agents, or their influence, when we credit the result of their work to the effect upon those only who have been in their presence or under their direct care. What about the multitude of those who have early been deprived of those cherished offices of a kind mother, or the cases where, instead, there have been every opposite influence and example, cunningly schooling in the vilest lessons of sin; or those who have had from none at all, to good home culture, but have lacked the Sunday school and church? When we contemplate these is it not wonderful how the little leaven of good has permeated so great a mass, and reached out such controlling influence through example and association to so great a surrounding multitude?

THE INFLUENCE OF EXAMPLE.

Then surely very great credit must be given to the power and influence of example as exerted through association, by the numerous and varied organizations of the people. We cannot see how so many good, intelligent, educated, "up to the times" people of to-day can possibly stand aloof as they do, and even denounce organizations as a whole, through stubbornness of will it must be, for through knowledge of their acknowledged benefits in so many ways it can not be, and not feel at times the stinging impulse of remorse, in consciousness of their own neglect to take their part of the works and burdens for humanity with those whom they see are valiantly moving on with the work, though urging them as millstones of dead weight or drones of the world's hive, while constant recipients of free offerings and benefits.

TRIBUTES TO THE GRANGE.

However, it is exceedingly gratifying to those connected with Grange work, to hear the very many tributes of appreciation and praise of noble works in so many ways, coming from so many thoughtful observers and workers in kindred associations and societies everywhere. It is fair to say that the opportunities, power of example, and teachings of the Grange, along the line of morality and character building, are not equalled by any similar order or association of the people. Year by year it is extending its work along other new lines, and coming nearer and more in touch of fellowship with other associations and people in our cities, making each the more competent to do greater work for all.

The Grange is illustrative of home and society blended. The timid one is set at something to do before time is allowed for misgivings. Willing mind and hands are busy performing allotted service, while the feeling takes possession of the person that they are a part of this family community. And however superior they readily see and feel any others about them to be, as they may have seemed in the broad world before, they yet realize that there is a place for them, because there is a work in their hands. To their associates the new comer assumes a different appearance. The new associations are rapidly bringing out and developing the more noble traits which have been inert and really unknown to either neighbor or possessor.

GRANGE TEACHINGS ARE MORAL.

Without discussing the educational or intellectual opportunities of the Grange, can any person question its moral influence when knowing that the Master in charge was first enjoined that "all connected with his Grange will look to him for example;" that he was cautioned to "keep the eye of his mind open among the members and encourage improvement;" that the sisters in the Order have been charged "that it will be a part of their duty to be patient with the wayward, carefully instruct the erring, diligently seek and bring back the straying, and those that are cast out," showing how we aim to inculcate all those virtues which will make her noble and beloved. Again the Master has told us, "use judgment, and let your example be such that others may profit by it." Our chaplain says, "Let me urge you to be faithful to yourselves, as gleaners in our Order to gather up memories of others' virtues, and to pass by their faults in pity." The husbandman has been

charged to "strive to make your homes pleasing, especially adorn the family circle with noble traits of a kind disposition, fill its atmosphere with affection, and induce all to love and not to fear you." Where the welfare of each is bound up in the good of all, let us strive to make our lives as harmoniously beautiful as are the works of nature's God. These words from the Overseer, "Be careful to engraft only such truths as will be guide and teacher when your voice shall be silent on earth, and you have passed to another and better world."

THE MORAL POWER OF THE GRANGE.

It must be admitted that the associations of such a society as the Grange have wonderful power to keep as well as to build, for though we build our house and decorate it by every art, to make it so perfect and pleasing, the further great care is to keep it thus. The frequent mingling in the Grange constantly places its membership in use of its teachings, carrying its lessons into the practical operations and walk of life. How plain it is that the Grange has come to be a link in this great moral work, perpetuating the hallowed influences of home by the power of fraternal recognition and acceptance, carrying the intellectual achievements of school into the reality of life, blending and harmonizing all church, community, and society influence, demanding and sustaining a higher moral standard all through life.

Novi.

Echoes from the Picnics.

(Continued from page 1.)

was not a skip in the program. All appeared at their best and on that best there was no discount.

One grand feature of the occasion was a plenty of music. To the band was added the Fruit Ridge quartette, Lickley Corners' quartette, Acme quartette, and the whistling bird of Moscow, Miss Lena Ramsdell, whose whistling, with organ accompaniment, beat all "nater." The quartettes responded to the encores again and again. It is doubtful if Michigan ever produced a better singer in his line than Prof. Thomas of Fruit Ridge. May we all live to see and hear them all again. The forenoon was occupied by local talent, the afternoon mostly by the principal speakers of the day.

Hon. J. H. Brigham, Master of the National Grange spoke for over an hour, and showed the necessity of, and urged organization and co-operation of the agricultural class, and warned the Grange against

radicalism that had brought naught to so many otherwise good organizations. His speech was filled with good sense and humor which held the attention of the audience to the end.

Brother Brigham was followed by Judge Ramsdell, who spoke principally on our finance. His views are that our governmental financiering was one of the worst in the world, that that of the United States and Europe was largely responsible for our agricultural depression, stagnation of business, and the deplorable condition of the laboring classes. The debate between Harvey and Horr was not to the point, exhaustive or satisfactory. We should have free coinage of silver at the rate of 16 to 1, or better still 15½ to 1, so as to be on the same basis as that of the Latin monetary union of Europe, but with a duty on all imported silver in the bullion or otherwise, sufficient to cover the difference in value at the time of purchase between that of silver in the bullion and the same amount coined. He is opposed to our national banking system, and in favor of the government issuing directly all our currency, and considers the cry for credit strengthening acts as a humbug to deceive the people, and the looking to England and the Rothschilds for financial aid as infamous. He said that if our national treasury was empty and every dollar in the United States was sunk in the sea that our credit would still be good the world over. He believes in the independence of the United States and its truckling to no foreign power.

After the exercises were over a Hillsdale farmers' institute association was organized. W.M. KIRBY.

He—"May I sit down and talk to you, just a minute?" She—"I'm afraid not—you see I have an engagement two hours from now."—Ex.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury,

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R. MORRILL, Pres. O. E. FIFEELD, Sec'y and Treas. P. S.—See Confidential Trade Circular, p. 40.

Composition and Use of Fertilizers.

Bulletin Oregon Station.

THE ELEMENTS AND THEIR RELATION TO FERTILIZERS.

Oxygen.—Oxygen is by far the most abundant of all the elements. It forms about one-fifth of the atmosphere, where it exists in a free and uncombined state as a gas. It is the vital principle of the air we breathe.

Hydrogen is the element, which when chemically combined with oxygen, forms water. It constitutes about one-ninth, by weight, of all water, and enters into composition of all plants and animals.

Hydrogen and Oxygen as Fertilizers.—These two elements are supplied to plants in the form of water, which is the largest constituent of the growing plant. The plant tissue receives the necessary amount of each element by the separation of the water stored in the plant.

I cannot refrain here from calling attention to the fact that too much water may be nearly, if not quite, as bad for a soil as too little, and this is a particularly applicable to certain parts of Oregon. There are immense bodies of so called "white land," which can be made excellent farming lands, equal to any, by ridding them of the superfluous amount of water by means of tile drainage.

Carbon.—The element exists quite abundantly in a free state, and occurs under three forms, (1) diamond, (2) graphite, (called black-lead,) (3) charcoal, lamp-black, coal, etc. It is the central element of all animal and vegetable material.

di-oxid, or often carbonic acid gas. Analysis shows that carbon constitutes about one-half of the solid portion of plants consequently it must be an important plant food. But extended experiments have shown that notwithstanding the element is so intimately associated with plants it may be left out of consideration in direct fertilizers for the carbon of the plant is taken from the carbon di-oxid of the atmosphere, which furnishes an inexhaustible supply.

Nitrogen.—This is a colorless, invisible gas without taste or color. It composes about four-fifths of the atmosphere. In addition to occurring in the atmosphere, it is found also in plants and animals. Animals cannot exist when left to breathe nitrogen alone, and yet it is not poisonous. Unlike oxygen and hydrogen, this gas will neither burn, nor will it support combustion.

Ammonia exists in the atmosphere in small quantities, being formed when animal and vegetable matter containing nitrogen decomposes. With acids ammonia deposits itself much like a metal in that it forms salts, which are called ammonium salts.

To be Continued.

Labor and Capital.

A paper read before Helena Grange by Samuel Trotman of Alden, and sent to the VISITOR for publication by request of the Grange.

There are two great questions before us in America to-day, labor and capital. We put labor first, for it began before capital existed. They are indeed great questions because they directly affect the interests of the people; and upon their proper solution depends not only the welfare of society in general but the government itself.

LABOR IS BEFORE CAPITAL.

The question of labor has been before the world ever since God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and told him to dress it; but the question of capital is of much more recent date. Capital cannot be created without labor. Hear what Mr. Lincoln says: "I affirm it is my conviction that class laws, placing capital above labor, are more dangerous to the republic at this hour, than was chattel slavery in the days of its haughtiest supremacy. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."

CAPITAL HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF LABOR

on every hand; and is so strongly entrenched that by its own power it can defend itself. The channel along which capital flows is complete, and furnished, and ready for use at an hour's notice. It is labor that needs protection; for the road along which labor travels is only

partly surveyed, and reminds us of some American roads, beginning with a well defined track, which soon becomes a bridle path, and quickly changing into a squirrel track and running up a tree.

Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q. C., M. P., a leading authority on London questions in England, stated at Battersea the other day, that land in the city had been sold at £140 the square foot. This is equivalent to a cost price of £6,000,000 and rent of £180,000 an acre. Who creates this wealth? certainly not the landlord who pockets it. If the landlord does not create the wealth he is legally entitled to, who does? The people of London with their industry, and their commerce—they it is who give to land in the center of London such a value. Take our own country, and for the last 25 or 30 years, city life has been built up at the expense of country life.

ROOT OF ALL EVIL.

It is corrupt and corrupting. On account of the small place gold occupies, and the large amount of wealth it represents, they have made it the standard of values, they have surrounded it with an awe that amounts to reverence. They have invested it with a fictitious value, because the value represents power; but it is the power of the python, that crushes all that comes within its folds. It works in harmony with the baser part of human nature, and seems to possess the power of arousing and revealing the deepest depths of human passion. We believe as long as the monied men provide the capital, and the workmen provide the labor, that social disorder, distress, and strikes will continue to prevail. For capitalists will always control the rate of wages, and the volume of money in circulation, and shut down public works, and stop manufacturing, whenever it suits their purpose to do so, regardless of the misery, and want, and starvation which they create among the workmen and the families.

It is labor which creates wealth, not capital, and the wealth belongs to those who have made it. We believe the only remedy is for the workmen to provide both labor and capital, and divide among themselves the proceeds of labor, and enjoy and control the wealth which they create. But says one, we need capital and business enterprise and brains to control business corporations and manufacturing establishments, and these qualifications are found only among the capitalists. We deny the assertion. Both history and experience teach that these statements are not founded on fact, but on theory.

IT IS A LIBEL

upon those who perform the labor and produce the wealth of the world. We believe there is more honesty and honor, truth and tact, brains and business, and fellow feeling among the working men throughout the world, than can be found in the ranks of the rich, and anyone who will read up the reports, and study the statistics of the co-operative societies of England, will arrive at the same conclusion. Great is the power of gold. It is no doubt the greatest material power in the world to-day. If the love of money is the root of all evil, the greed of gold is the sum of all corruption. What right has labor to bow to capital? What right has the workman to ask, and beg permission to labor, to support his loved ones which are dearer to him than life itself? Are not the evils attending the laboring class greater and more widespread than was chattel slavery when that horrid system lived in our land? Is not the greed of gold working us a greater injury than did the powder and bullets of the confederacy during the war? 'Tis true it does not shed innocent blood; but it dries up the blood in the arteries and veins of commerce, so that it cannot flow

into the channels of trade, and is therefore not a just measure of value as a medium of exchange.

Banks do not create wealth. They are the means through legalized forms by which the bankers are made rich and the people poor. On every hand the dark clouds of decreasing values are spread over our fair land, caused by the gold standard, which has greatly appreciated the value of gold and greatly depreciated the value of labor, and the products of labor. The gold standard has very much increased the purchasing power of gold, and also very much decreased the purchasing power of labor, and the one is always in proportion to the other. We repeat that our present trouble and commercial distress has been brought about by decreasing values caused by the gold standard, and by selfish motives, and the greed of gain, on the part of capital; and also by ignorant voting on the part of the people, who have

SOLD THEIR BIRTHRIGHT

for a mess of pottage, and a nasty mess at that.

Money stands in about the same relation to a healthy civilization, as blood to a healthy body. Money is the blood of civilization. The wealth of the world is measured by money. Human experience has taught us that the power of money is greater than any other on earth. There is no conscience that money will not strangle, and no nature in humanity that money will not warp and bend to its will. Money often obtains its power through legalized forms of law, but more often as the direct result of the violation of law. poet truly says—

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulated and men decay."

And we would add—

"Ill fares the land where the gold standard reigns, And men have naught out money for their pains."

But will the struggle last forever? Is there no ray of hope? Is there no cloud with a silver lining? Are there gleams of light to dispel the surrounding gloom? Is hope forever to be driven from the heart? Must there be right forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne? No! a thousand times no! There is coming into view a better order. Beams of light are breaking forth. The day is dawning. It will come and will not tarry. And already in the sky is the cloud with the silver lining, that will lead our Israel into the promised land. And when the millennial morn dawns upon our vision—when the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness bursts upon our sight, bringing in the reign of peace, then the greed of gold, that hydra-headed monster of iniquity, will be hurled into the depths of darkness; and the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and there will be peace upon the earth, and good will towards men.

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