

THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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THE GRANGE VISITOR,

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Invariably in Advance.

J. T. COBB, Editor and Manager.
To whom all communications should be addressed, at Schoolcraft, Mich.
Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft.

To Contributors.

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RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Acceptable advertisements inserted at the rate of \$1.00 per square, for each insertion.
A liberal discount will be made on standing advertisements of three months or more.

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By order of the State Grange at its late session, Masters no longer receive a copy of the VISITOR free.—Secretaries, or other persons, sending ten or more names, with pay for the same, will receive an extra copy free. Sample numbers furnished on application.

ORIGINAL ODE.

BY REV. GEO. DUFFIELD.

Sung at the opening of the House of Representatives, January 1st, 1879.

AIR—"Watch on the Rhine."

To Thee we wake our grateful songs,
O Thou, to whom all praise belongs,
O God, our Fathers' God, to Thee,
Like, her who sang beside the sea,
We sing this day with heart and voice,
We praise and triumph and rejoice.

Within these walls long to remain;
We welcome now a shining train,
Here JUSTICE comes, the first and best,
And walks a Queen before the rest!
Here LIBERTY, and LAW, and PEACE,
From Anarchy, boast full release.

Beneath this Dome, let Truth preside,
Let Wisdom teach, let Conscience guide.
Let love of country all inspire
To keep unquenched the sacred fire,
Till exiles far remote shall come,
Where freedom guards her lasting home.

High noon we meet! The opening year
We welcome, as an omen clear,
Of brighter, better days in store;
When violence is heard no more,
When the dear Flag, without a stain,
O'er every State supreme shall reign.

Exec'ive Com. Department.

Whitney Grange.

TUSCOLA, Jan. 11th, 1879.

Worthy Secretary:

On returning home from the State Grange, I took the first opportunity to present the claims of the VISITOR to the Brothers and Sisters of Whitney Grange, No. 513. This was on the night of the installation of our officers, when a goodly number were present. The result was satisfactory. By a unanimous vote we determined to subscribe for enough to supply each family connected with the Grange with a copy and a few more for distribution outside of the Grange where, they may do some good for the Order. A letter from our Secretary enclosing the money will probably reach you before this does. I tried to impart to our members some of the enthusiasm and love of the Order, which I brought away with me from our meeting at Lansing, and with apparent good success.

We have set apart forty dollars from our funds for periodicals for our members. There seems a determination on the part of all to make the Grange a success.

I wish every Patron in the State could have been at our Lansing meeting. I believe we should not so often hear the question asked "What good has the Grange accomplished?" Its power for good, socially, morally, intellectually, would be better understood and appreciated. The necessity of co-operation to fight the powerful monopolies which stand between the producer and consumer, is every day becoming more apparent as our farmers are meeting in the Grange and considering these matters. God speed the time when all our farmers shall join with us, and help to carry on the good work of lifting up and educating the tillers of the soil to be something more than "hewers of wood and drawers of water," to be what they were designed by the Creator, the peers of those of any other calling or profession.

I believe that no communication has ever been sent to the VISITOR from our Grange. I think we will do better in the future. We were organized over four years ago. Most of our charter members have stood by through all discouragements, while many who

afterwards joined us have become weary and left us. We are to-day strong and united, and determined to stand by the ship. We have a good hall 22x42 feet, well furnished, and the walls ornamented with paintings, and we soon hope to have an organ, and to lay the foundation for a library.

J. Q. A. BURRINGTON, Master.

A Visit to Detroit.

Bro. Cobb:

In compliance with the wishes of the Executive Committee I went to Detroit the last day of December, to see Mr. Chidester, our agent. I found him in his office ready for business, and seemed to have all that he could attend to. The Detroit market was glutted with most all kinds of produce, which made it much more difficult to dispose of the articles he had to sell. He seemed to feel well, and thought if he could get the confidence of the Michigan farmers he could build up a good business. I was there all one afternoon, and some one was there all the time, wanting something, or had something for him to sell. One man came to get his pay for a load of produce that Mr. Chidester had sold for him, and he was so well pleased that he said that he should never go on the market again, but should drive right there, as he was satisfied he could not do as well himself as our agent could. I have never heard of any one who has shipped produce to Mr. Chidester that has not been well satisfied, and all say that they will hereafter do all their business through him.

In regard to the complaint from a member of Danville Grange, he says he received but one letter from him and that was answered at once, telling him the reason he had not disposed of his cheese. The complaining party replied that he was satisfied, and told him to do the best that he could with it, and wanted to send him some more. I am more than ever satisfied that Mr. Chidester is the right man in the right place.

Yours fraternally,

WM. SATTERLEE.

The Personnel of the Mich. State Grange.

In a former paper we promised a resume of the Personnel of the State Grange,—we there briefly glanced at our Worthy Master; and his energetic Secretary, two very important factors in any organization. The next in importance to us as an Order, are the officers of the Executive Committee. They are of themselves the State Grange, in the interval of its sessions. They are to us what the bone or muscle is to the human body, or the foundation is to the building; its organic principles; and a more symmetrical, and perfectly adjusted foundation, it were difficult to find in any organization. The State Grange of Michigan may justly feel elated, with its noble executive board. Although one of them is the possessive of a child; yet he is one of Michigan's most precocious children. His name has become a household word, among yeomanry of the State. Whatever there is good in words, or philanthropic in purpose, he possesses most admirably the qualities for its advancement.

To the name of J. Webster Childs Michigan owes a debt of gratitude. As an Educator, he is foremost in the Grand Army. As a statesman, he commands everywhere the respect and confidence of the people. As a Patron of Husbandry, he is highly honored for his efforts to ennoble and elevate the agricultural interest of the State. He has erected for himself a more enduring monument than marble; to perpetuate his memory, by virtue of his relation to

the Agricultural College. If this noble institution, which is doing so much for Michigan's sons (and we hope soon to add daughters) is not his child, in the possessive case, he at least sustains it the relation of "God-Father." Long may he live to care for and foster his worthy protege.

Another name associated with its executive board, is *Divine*. Not in an supernatural sense, do we claim for him Divinity. Yet his wise counsels, and prudent foresight, give him the highest claim, to the natural endowments of wisdom. He is at least able to "Divine" the hardest problems, that relate to the success and prosperity of the Patrons of Husbandry. Genial and sweet spirited in his intercourse with others; together with his commanding personal attractions, render him an important factor, in the organic structure.

Then, there is the honored chairman of the board, F. M. Holloway, who needs only to be seen to be loved and respected—more than thirty years ago we made his acquaintance, and partook of the genial radiance of his cheerful face. Generous, noble, and true to any interest confined to his care, he is worthy of the confidence which the State Grange has reposed in him. From the beginning, he has been associated with the executive department of its work; and is again re-elected for continued service, which is his highest commendation.

Add to this noble trio, the energetic, clear-headed, and silver-tongued C. G. Luce who sustains the double relation of Special Lecturer of the State Grange, as well as a member of the Executive Board; and we have not only the pillar of "strength" to contrive, but also the pillar of beauty to adorn. Of the remaining members of the Executive Board, I cannot speak from personal knowledge. Yet unless their personal appearance sadly misrepresents them, they are worthy and qualified for the honorable and responsible positions to which they have been elected. Seven is a sacred number, and our organic seven are at least vital to us as an Order. Could the whole State have been canvassed for material to place in its foundation, more suitable material could not have been selected, than our worthy seven of the Executive Board.

Their very names, are implied guarantee of the success of the Patrons of Husbandry.

Failure, inevitably comes of unskilled and improper leaders. The principle holds here as elsewhere, "that the stream cannot rise higher than the fountain." If there be weakness, doubt, and hesitancy in its organic structure—there must be chaos, and confusion and final defeat throughout the Order.

These men have advanced, and been aggressive from the beginning,—advanced too, when the most formidable difficulties were to be encountered. Need I refer to the great plaster monopoly, and its efforts to crush the influence of the Order. Nobly did these men meet the emergency, and gave the orders to advance in the face of all these difficulties—more hesitating and less efficient men would have seen no way of escape, but in absolute surrender—but they, true to their trust, without money, grappled with the gigantic foe, and complete success crowned their efforts.

Patrons of Michigan! Your Order has in its very structure, the elements of success. It must become the most efficient and aggressive organization in the interest of agriculture existing. Although yet in its infancy, it outranks all other forms of organization—let us as Patrons, ever appreciate its increasing facilities for social and mental improvement, and seek to make it a blessing to the farming interest of the entire State.

S. L.

Bear Lake, Jan. 14th, 1879.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

AMONG THE LABORERS.

1879 came, and called for field work. On January 1st the cars took us from Schoolcraft en route for Centreville. A terrible snow storm came with the new year, and snow was added to snow, and drift piled upon drift; the temperature growing colder and the mercury, falling lower until the 2d of January was indeed a cold day. 14° or 20° below zero would keep a prudent man in the house, yet we went to Centreville and found two more men equally foolish, and like them we retraced our steps, and night found us again at Schoolcraft just in time for a fight with a fire that threatened for a time to destroy this beautiful prairie village.

Is the office of the State Grange in danger? was our first thought, and after looking over the ground and noting the devastating work of the fire fiend we thought it safe, and joined the well-muffled crowd in saving what we could from destruction. And "Stranger," (we did as we were told), "Take this box of watches and jewelry over to Dave's," said a man handing a box to us, but who was Dave? we thought the post office was a safe place, and took the box there. I think that man knows a Granger when he sees one.

The fire was controlled, and after a visit to Sister Cobb's pantry, we rested from the day's labor. The 3d, was colder than the 2d, in spite of the fire during the night. Trains behind time, off the track, cancelled, etc., were the reports from the railway officials, so we staid with Sec. Cobb, and as Worthy Master Woodman was snowbound also at the same place, we made the best of it for the rest of the week, making regular trips between Sec. Cobb's office and the place where the tables were duly set, in spite of storm and a discouraging thermometer.

Dinner hour of Wednesday, the 8th inst., found us at Wayland, Allegan Co. Going thence we spent the night with Bro. Hall, of Spring Lake, where milk and honey tempted the palate, and with Sister Hall and her lady guests, the evening passed but too swiftly.

At Wayland was to be installation of officers. Refreshment came before labor. The feast was labor, for they told us that they had fifty chicken-pies and several roast turkeys, and the rule was in that Grange to eat all put upon the plates—we like to please our hosts, but we had an appointment for the next day.

Wayland Grange is in healthy condition—they have a very pleasant hall, which they have just fitted up for their own use, and long may they enjoy it. The installation passed pleasantly and smoothly; good music assisting. The large hall was crowded, and the audience listened attentively to the service and the address.

The 9th inst. took us to Lowell, when Bro. Hancome met us and took us over the hills to the new Hall of Keene Grange, Ionia County. This hall has lately been built, and when painted and furnished will be a very pleasant one. It is a two story building, flanked with sheds for the teams. The hall is in the upper story, and has one fault, which I mention, that others in building, may avoid it. It has no means of ventilation. The installation service was very pleasant—made so by the assistance of good music, under the direction of a gentleman, who is teaching a class of (mostly) Patrons in this hall this winter. Let other Granges imitate Keene Grange in this. A large audience were very attentive to the address, and seemed to enjoy it. This Grange appreciates the VISITOR, for they take 21 copies. No danger of its being dormant.

We enjoyed the hospitality of Bro. V. Welch and family for the night, and the next morning his lively team took

us in a short time to Vergennes Church, for the next day's appointment. Here we had a good audience of earnest listeners, and thank the choir who added much to the occasion. Bro. and Sister Hoag, claimed us at dinner, and we enjoyed a pleasant afternoon. Brother H. has a fine short-horn herd of 18 head, all worthy of the admiration we gave them. We would like to mention Sister Della Hoag's wax fruit and flowers, and many other things, but—the Grange met in the evening at its hall in the Honor of the Master, Bro. J. R. Walker, whom many will remember having seen at the State Grange. The installation passed off finely, in the presence of a large attendance. The singing and the organ accompaniment were all excellent. This Grange gave me 25 subscriptions for the VISITOR.

An early morning ride, on the morning of the 11th, with Brother Walker, took us to Grand Rapids, where we had the pleasure of meeting Bros. Wm. P. Whitney and Samuel Langdon, on the Board of Supervisors of Kent County, of which the former is the able chairman.

Two o'clock p. m. found us at Rutland Grange, Barry County, Bro. A. Leuther, taking us from Irving Station. Public installation and address followed, to all of which good attention was given. Rutland Grange has a snug little hall which the members seem to prize very much. This Grange has, I learn, voted to take the VISITOR for every family, and pay the amount from the Grange Treasury. A good example. We regretted we could not spend more time here, but friends from Middleville Grange took us away and placed us nearer the railroad. Saturday night we enjoyed the hospitality of Bro. Robertson and wife, the latter a playmate and schoolmate of ours nearly forty years ago. Of course we talked, for we had not seen each other since 1843, "you know how it is yourself." Sunday night found us in the home of Bro. and Sister Bray, of Middleville, and an enjoyable home they have. At an early hour on Monday, Bro. Bray took us to the depot where we saw the beautiful new hall of this Grange, of which Bro. B. is Master. The Odd Fellows rent half the upper story for a hall, and the Grange use the other half. There is a large store room below to which the Grange hope to lay a side-track from the railroad where they will have a good elevator for grain and an ample store house for salt and plaster.

Tuesday evening the 14th inst. found us at Bowen Centre, Kent Co. Bowen Grange has lately built a hall with a store and general lecture room below. In this room we addressed a large audience for an hour. A good choir gave us much assistance—and we are glad to learn that they hope to have most of the choir within the gates soon. After the lecture, we met the Grange in the hall above, and exemplified the unwritten work of the Order. Eleven subscriptions were taken here for the VISITOR, and one for the *Husbandman*.

The Master of Bowen Grange, Bro. Crumbeck took us to the train the following morning. We took dinner with our old friends Bro. and Sister Mattison, at Ionia, and arrived at Lansing in time for the meeting of the Association of County Agricultural Societies of Mich. Twenty-five societies from different parts of the State were represented, and we are pleased to note they were mostly Patrons. This is as it should be, for Patrons should be foremost in every good work to advance the interests of Agriculture, and correct the errors and remove the ills under which we have long laboring.

Bro. Glidden, of Paw Paw, presided over the meeting of the Association, giving us many, valuable hints in his opening address. Secretary Frank Little, of Kalamazoo, made an excellent report upon the work of the Association, and submitted a tabular statement of the societies for the year. Incomplete as it was because of the failure of societies to report—this effort of our Secretary was commended by all, and he was urged to complete it and have it published.

We earnestly hope that all Agricultural Societies that have not reported will send to Secretary Little for a blank, if they have not had one, and then fill out the same and forward it to him. Whether officers or not, please see that this work is done.

Sec'y Baird, of the Agricultural College, read a valuable paper upon fairs—their value and the mode of managing them, and we wish we could give it to our readers—many important subjects

relative to fairs were discussed by those present. A committee on needed legislation was made, composed of Bros. D. Woodman, of Paw Paw; J. J. Robinson, of Washtenaw, and M. B. Hine, of Kent, and they asked to present the Memorial of the Association, asking of the publication of an increased number of reports of the State Board of Agriculture, and of the State Pomological Society.

The position assigned the department of Agriculture and Pomology in the Capitol was discussed and the officers and Executive Committee of the Association entrusted with the duty of uniting with others in endeavoring to secure more commodious and accessible room, for the headquarters of the greatest interest of our State. Why should not the Grange take hold of this and ask the Governor, Board of Control and even Legislature for suitable rooms. The various methods of conducting fairs—securing the best results therefrom were ably discussed and decided upon by resolutions.

The officers for the ensuing year are C. H. Richmond, Ann Arbor, Pres't; C. L. Whitney, Muskegon, Vice-Pres't; Frank Little, Kalamazoo, Secretary and Treasurer, and D. D. Antes, Centreville; M. B. Hine, Kent County, and Ira H. Rutherford, Jr., of Lapeer, constitute the Executive Committee with the President and Secretary.

The association closed its labors Friday noon to meet next year at Ann Arbor. Thursday evening, the 16th inst. we met at Shiawassee Grange No. 157, and upon application of 21 members complying with the necessary requirements restored their charter, surrendered two years since. Bro. A. B. Clark was installed Master, and Bro. A. M. Howard, Secretary. This Grange now means business, and will succeed we think. Many other Granges in like circumstances arise and shake off the dust and again enter the field of action and labor. Brothers and Sisters help them to make the effort, it will make you stronger. We regretted that we could not give more time to the Legislature, when at Lansing. We saw enough to convince us that we have friends there ready to work for the interest and protection of our common calling, but they need our sympathy and assistance. Send in the petitions well signed. Let every Grange take this matter in hand at once and see that some one takes the petitions to every farmer and citizen, and invite all to sign them—that our Legislative members may think they come in storms that last forty days more.

Let every County or District Grange get up a memorial, signed by the Master and Secretary, and send to the Legislature upon each of those subjects.

On our way home we stopped and spent Friday night at Alton, 634. A large audience met us at the new hall lately built by this Grange, and gave an attentive ear to an hour's discourse. We missed the musical part of such meetings, and hope our Alton Brothers and Sisters will add music to the other attractions of the Grange. We add this not so much for the above Grange, as for those other Granges in our Order who have two long neglected music. To them all we say, court the heavenly maid and secure her presence and aid in your meeting, both private and public. Develop the talent of your members, giving them opportunity for instruction, that in Grange and home you may have the harmony of song and the concord of musical notes.

Appointments.

A committee consisting of Thos. Mars, Master; F. Franklin, Overseer; S. J. Barnard, Lecturer, and B. J. Vandever, David Best, Sisters Lucy Howe, Anna Ticknor, and Sarah Howe, under the auspices of Berrien Co. Grange, will hold Grange revival meetings as follows, in Berrien County:

Morris Chapel Grange, Feb. 10th, at 7 o'clock p. m.

Dayton Grange, Feb. 11th, at 2 o'clock p. m., and evening.

Three Oaks Grange, Feb. 12th, at 2 o'clock p. m., and evening.

Mount Hope Grange, Feb. 13th, at 2 o'clock p. m., and evening.

Berrien Springs Grange, Feb. 14th, at 10 o'clock a. m.

The day meetings will be public, and optional with the Granges in the evening.

SAM'L BARNARD, Lecturer.
Berrien Co. Grange No. 1.

Have you Anything to Do ?

There are some people who think the Grange had a mission, but has done its work. Another class both within and without the gate never thought the Grange would do anything, and never has done any good.

The first class worked well for a time in the ranks but are tired now, and as an excuse for their shiftlessness—nay, laziness—say the mission of our Order has been accomplished—its work is done—let us rest. I can account for such conduct only as sheer stupidity, a downright hypocrisy—either too ignorant to comprehend, or too selfish to be honest.

The other class who never saw any good in our Order—could not see, if they tried, the mighty works it has compassed, nor comprehend what we are doing to-day, or what still is in store for us to do. I have no fear that the above, will offend any reader of the VISITOR, for they never take, or read anything so much above their comprehension. But thanks to Him, who gave us the Grange, there are many, and the number is growing who have sight to see, and wisdom to comprehend, the plan and object of our fraternity—and by their works have shown their faith. Hope still inspires them, and their motto is "Onward and Upward." Their Fidelity has been proven in the earnestness of the Past—the activity of the Present, and the readiness to see and the will to do valiantly the work of the Future.

The latter class are at Grange meetings. They attend upon every means that will secure mental or moral growth and social advancement. They have met together, worked together, and have gained many a victory in the past, over monopolies legal or illegal—and they still find *giant wrongs* upheld by ignorance, and fostered by selfishness. Monopolies are still bleeding us and our purses, and are sustained by the laws of our State. Such an one was ably written up in the last VISITOR, when we were shown what we pay our legal agents to bind the chains of a giant Oil Monopoly.

Brothers and Sisters we have fought railroads, patent rights and plaster rings, and conquered, but a greater than either is before us, and none too soon and none too unitedly can we meet the foe—and meet them we must, first, though our servants—our legislators.

To give some idea of what we have to contend with, I quote from the New York *Sun*, which has taken pains to learn the facts, and not being paid for silence, publishes them thus:

"The Standard oil combination, with which these producers are just beginning what promises to be the most desperate struggle between producers and capitalists that this country has ever seen, is in splendid shape for a fight, and the producers know it. It represents forty millions of wealth, and the almost absolute control of the oil-refining interests of the world. It pays royally for brains, and can call to its aid the best talent in the country. It controls the great trunk lines, and it pays dividends to its stockholders, as nearly as can be estimated, of a million dollars a month, perhaps more. It has controlled legislation, and Congressional committees have bowed to it. It buys 40,000 barrels of crude oil a day, and its pipe lines and tank lines take all the crude oil produced to the various refineries, and the refined oil to the seaboard. By a simple telegraph dispatch it can throw thousands of men out of employment, and it can draw its check for \$1,750,000 in settlement of a suit without the appearance of disaster. It has made all its money in less than ten years, and made it in oil."

You, readers, have all contributed to this wealth by buying and using, compelled by your own laws, made by your own servants, elected by your own votes. I believe that the Patrons of Michigan have contributed more towards this wealth than all the Order of Patrons has ever taken for fees and dues in this State. Will you continue it. Is there nothing for the Grange to do? Would that every member was awake to his duty—that perfect union existed, so that all could work together. The conflict would be short, but shorter were every tiller of the soil within the gates, and his armor on.

The Grand Rapids *Eagle* says truly of this monopoly:

"Our own Legislature has a duty to perform in this matter, and although the Standard Oil Company, by means

Patrons Take Notice.

CLARKSTON, Jan. 24, 1879.

Certain Parties have been around here selling sewing machine attachments, the "Keystone Hemmers." It is a swindle, what they sell for \$1.00 per box can be bought for 90 cents per doz. boxes. They are going through the State, and I hope the readers of the VISITOR will show them the road whenever they appear.

Yours, Fraternally,
E. FOSTER, Sec'y.

SCIO, Mich., Jan. 27, 1879.

J. T. Cobb, Esq.—Dear Sir:
The First District Grange of Washtenaw County P. of H. held their annual meeting for the election of officers last Saturday. Robert Buchannan, Dexter, was elected M., and the writer, Secretary. We also organized a Farmers' Mutual Protective Association, auxiliary to the one at Ypsilanti. We propose to canvass the western part of the County, and invite the farmers to join this organization for their mutual protection against patent right swindlers, and all other swindlers. President, R. Buchannan, Treasurer, D. Lyon; Secretary, G. A. Peters.

Our District Grange is working finely; there were about 105 members at our annual meeting, and we are doing a large amount of good work. I think the Grange interest is looking up in old Washtenaw County. If the farmers will stand together there is not a doubt but there is a good time coming for them by and by.

Fraternally Yours,
GEO. A. PETERS, Sec.

MT. MORRIS, Genessee County,)
January 15, 1879.)

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

At a regular meeting of Genessee County Grange No. 6, held at the hall of Flushing Grange, Ezra Smith was elected Master, P. O. Flushing, Wm. Algate, Lecturer, and W. F. Stevens, Secretary, Mt. Morris.

This Grange was organized Sept. 1, 1876, by Bro. C. L. Whitney, since which it has dragged along with little life and manifest weakness. But I am happy to say that we are having a revival, and a great interest is being shown. I think we shall now rally to the standard, and be united together by the fraternal ties of our beloved Order, and strive to accomplish that, for which we are laboring.

Fraternally yours,
W. F. STEVENS, Sec'y.

BIRMINGHAM, Mich., Jan. 23, 1879.

Worthy Sec'y Cobb:

At the annual meeting of Oakland Pomona Grange, No. 5, P. of H., O. K. Carpenter, of Orion, was elected Master; A. J. Crosby, Jr., Pontiac, Lecturer, and J. Jackson, of Birmingham, Secretary.

A special meeting of Oakland Pomona Grange, will be held with the White Lake Grange on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1879, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m.

Yours, Fraternally,
J. JACKSON, Sec'y.

STEVENSVILLE, Mich., Jan. 23d, 1879.

In the interest of the Order, I wish to give notice that Bro. Thomas Mason, the agent of the Berrien County Association, doing business in Chicago, will be present and talk on the important subject of practical co-operation, at a special meeting of the Cass County Grange, at Cassopolis, on Feb. 5, and also at Porter, Van Buren County, on the following day, Feb. 6.

W. A. BROWN.

The fourth quarterly and annual meeting of Calhoun County Grange will be held at Grange hall, in the city of Marshall, Thursday, Feb. 13th, 1879, at 1 o'clock p. m., sharp. Subordinate Granges are requested to send delegates.

All fourth degree members are invited.
H. B. SMITH, Sec'y.

DWIGHT Grange, No. 602.

Editor Visitor:

Having been for some time a reader of the VISITOR I have become much interested in your paper and have induced the members of our Grange to take the paper. Before I give you the names I want to tell you how well our Grange is getting along. Never since it started has it been in as prosperous a condition as at present. Within the last three months we have taken in ten new members, and more talk of coming. We all seem to be more interested than ever before. I will close by giving you the names of the new subscribers, hoping that at some future time I may send you more.

MRS. RICHARD NICHOLS.

Ladies' Department.

"SHE WHO ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD."

Dear woman is the dream of life,
Adorned with every winning art;
As mother, daughter, sister, wife,
She melts the soul, she charms the heart.
Without her, what were lordly man?
A rainless cloud—a fruitless tree—
A world without a sun—a plan
That ever incomplete must be,
Her fostering care, devotion, love,
Seem inspirations from above.

In childhood's hour, beside her chair
She calls each fragile form;
She clasps our tiny hands in prayer,
Safe sheltered from the storm.
Yet man, ungrateful for the dart
Of falsehood hurls with skill;
And when he's won a woman's heart
He seeks its love to kill.
Her lot is to be tried; though pure,
To sigh, to suffer and endure.

Oh, mothers of a race unborn,
'Tis yours to speak those grand decrees
That herald in the promised morn,
The waiting world's Hesperides.
Ye are the molds of hero's strong
Who guard and glory our isles;
The seas in song shall roll along
Beneath the splendor of your smiles.
The beautiful and good shall reign,
And sinless Eden bloom again.

—English Magazine.

Shall our Daughters be Admitted to the Agricultural College.

I beg leave to ask, is there any good reason why they should not have the same privileges accorded them by the State that our sons have? It is acknowledged by all thinking minds, that the future welfare of our country, depends quite as much upon the women, as upon the men; then why not give them an equal chance to fit themselves for future usefulness by furnishing them the same practical education? Sooner or later our daughters will preside over homes, and their happiness and success depends almost entirely upon their fitness for the positions they occupy. Any woman, no matter how wealthy, who entrusts the management of the household entirely to servants, will find her husband will not "rise up and call her blessed."

Can we expect our girls will grow up with any knowledge of house-keeping, and the best way to accomplish a given amount of work, if they are never taught the best way? At this school they could be instructed how to detect adulterations in all the articles in every day use, by lessons in the laboratory, and who will say their bread and pies would be any the less wholesome, because they had some practical ideas of chemistry. And they need not neglect any of the usual branches of study that are taught in our Seminaries and High Schools. I believe a young lady who had graduated with honor, at our Agricultural College would be fitted to preside over any home in the land, (not excepting the White House) and she would be none too good for a thrifty farmer's wife. Another reason, why that is a good place for our daughters is, they would be removed from the fashions and frivolities of city life, their minds would not be so much taken from their studies, and they would have nature to copy from rather than art, as displayed in various ways in the town. What parent who has both sons and daughters to educate, would not greatly prefer to send them from home together, that they might watch over and care for each other. Who can guard the health and honor of a sister so well as her brother? and who can take care of a brother when sickness overtakes him (until mother can come) so well as a sister?

A good knowledge of Botany has always seemed to me a fine accomplishment, and where can it be better acquired than at the college.

The green house is acknowledged to have few equals, and no superior in our State, and students can have free access to it, where they find the floral of almost every land, to give ocular demonstration to the lessons taught. These are but some of the reasons, why our girls should be admitted to the Agricultural College, but for fear Bro. Cobb will say, "I am sorry to interrupt you," I will leave the subject for others to complete.

CHLOE.

—In private we must watch our thoughts; in the family, our tempers; in company, our tongues.

Advantages of "Plain Living."

There are many good reasons for living on plain, simply-cooked, but nourishing food. Variety is necessary; that is, a judicious mingling of dishes of grains, vegetables, fruits and meat. There need be but few kinds at one meal if the family are agreed in their tastes. The larger the family, as a general rule, the more need of variety each meal that each one may follow natural instinct in selection, as far as can be done with due reference to the rights of others. Plain living reduces not only our expenses, but our labor in the kitchen. Another important thing I have been taught by both reason and experience; plain living reduces our liability to diseases of all kinds. As I said recently, there has been but one case of absolute sickness (down sick in bed, undressed all day) in our little family of four children during the more than dozen years since the eldest was born. I think this is due to care in regard to the general rule of health, as no preventive or curative medicines—not even cat-nip tea or camphor—have been used. Yesterday a daughter complained of a slight sore throat—a very unusual complaint here—and I felt some little uneasiness, as diphtheria is abroad in this part of the country. But I felt condemned for the dinner of the day before—hot bread pancakes, upon which I knew the little girl was eating quite too much butter in a melting condition, followed by pumpkin pie, which disgraced me because it was too sweet and spicy for health. She had the good sense (or the cultivated instinct) to go without supper last night, and a wet cloth on her throat during sleep, covered by a dry one, perfected a cure of all sore throat.

Children who live habitually on plain fare, show evil effects from rich food much more quickly than those who live regularly on the latter, and some suppose this proves that their stomachs are weaker on account of plain living, but I think it is because they have a more correct or healthy tone.—*Faith Rochester, in Agriculturist.*

Parents should Visit the Schools.

January 13th, 1879.

Worthy Secretary:

On receiving VISITOR of Dec. 16th, I found "subscription expired," and now write to renew the same. Home Grange is still thriving, and strong in the faith. The late stormy weather has delayed our installation, but we look for a change sometime.

I cannot too strongly commend the many good things I find in the VISITOR, and especially the last letter from Mrs. Adelaide Knapp. The ideas advanced in regard to our common schools have long looked feasible to me. Perhaps if the mothers would sometimes visit the schools, and compare the relative ages and acquisitions of their children, with those of their neighbors, there would be fewer children sent term after term with no books, or just as bad, books not suited to their capacities, or that will not admit of the scholars being classed properly, thereby taking needless time, and failing to be interesting to the children, as any person who has ever thought once on the subject must see that a full class will take a child's attention much better than single recitations. I seem to hear you say, "space limited," so will save the balance for next time. If my turn ever comes again.

Respectfully,
HELEN FINCH.

Unity is Success.

Dear Sisters:

I have so often wished when reading so many of your interesting letters in the ever welcome VISITOR, that I was capable of returning something, if ever so little of interest, and to-day while thinking upon the subject, it came to me, am I doing right in idly sitting down and wishing. The old adage says, (where there is a will there is a way), and as I know my will to be good, I endeavor to find the way.

We are now nearing the fifth anniversary upon a number of us met to take upon ourselves the mysterious obligation of the Patrons of Husbandry, and I can truly say, that in all of these years I have been glad that this farmers' organization ever sprang into existence. It has been with us, as with many other Granges, sometimes rather dull, and a drawing off of its members, and a feeling among the remaining ones that

we were not advancing as fast as we ought; and if no more progress was to be made in the future, we might as well yield up the Charter, and go back once more a disunited family.

Now, dear sisters, should we be willing to give up because we advance so slowly, or become discouraged because we cannot mount to the summit at once?

We are as but a drop in a bucket of this great reform, and should but one drop disappear at a time, how long would the bucket remain full. So it is in regard to our little Subordinate Granges, one is of but small amount, but a continual drawing off; weakens the whole body. Rather let us strive to act together, and make each meeting so interesting, that we shall feel when necessity prevents our attending, that we have lost a rare pleasure. And I think in order to make each meeting thus interesting, we should all aim to be present, and at the appointed time open the Grange, go through with the regular proceedings, and then let each and every one be so interested as to have some suggestion to offer, and not one wait for another, or leave it all resting upon a certain few.

Fearing I have already taxed your patience to much, I subscribe myself
M. A. D.,
Of Baltimore Grange.

Pen Photographs—Continued.

Editor Grange Visitor

Please correct in "Pen Photographs" where your type make me say "Bro Luce is wild looking and fierce in argument," It should read "is *mid* looking, but fierce in argument."

To continue my sketches Bro. Mickle, of Adrian, recited on the last evening, that beautiful poem published in the VISITOR, Jan. 1st. He is large, rather portly, curly auburn hair, florid complexion, has a sleepy look, and is careless in dress. He has a wife who is a living representative of what women can do in the line of business, under the most trying circumstances, and he has the ability to accord her all the praise. We had the pleasure of a long conversation with him, and would like to tell you more, but it would make my article too long; however, I will say that Bro. Mickle is a pleasant, entertaining speaker, and never forgets to pay a tribute to woman. I wish we might hear from his wife through the VISITOR. I know she would tell us something that would be a help. For one thing I am sorry, that such generosities and whole-souled men as Bro. M. should caue the filthy weed.

Sister Luce is of slight build, very fair, with light, wavy hair, is in poor health, and is unassuming in deportment.

C. L. Whitney, is small of stature, but makes up in energy, had the general oversight of the rooms occupied by the Grange, and he was here, there, and all over, but always at his post when wanted. His report, which you have all no doubt read, was listened to with much interest, as was also the Worthy Master's, both of which were models in their way. Sister Whitney, like her husband, is hardly average size, has a very quiet, unobtrusive way, and is the opposite of her husband in color of hair and eyes and complexion—he being dark. If phrenology is true, they live very happily, being rightly mated. Their loss by fire two years ago has been a great trial to them; they both show the effect of care and labor. It is to be hoped they will take good care of themselves, and not wear themselves out too soon, as they can ill be spared.

The Worthy Chaplin, Bro. Steel, occupied his chair, and his noble wife by his side. He has the look of one who is at peace with all mankind, while the dear wife has the look of responsibility; that is the difference in their temperaments; she is all nerve and energy, and has made terrible inroads on her physical system by over-exertion and exposure. I hope she will heed a friendly warning, and not let her zeal take her on long rides through a bleak country this awful cold winter. Be satisfied to occupy a cozy nook in the VISITOR, and do your talking by the warm fireside. We shall need your counsels these many years, and cannot afford to let you continue on your suicidal course; be sides all this, her husband has such a fresh and youthful look, that some one will be telling him that his wife is too old for him, and oh!—the egotism of these men (even preachers)—who knows but he may be looking for a "handsomer woman?" My dear sister, look to your laurels!

—A woman is a good deal like a piece of ivy—the more you are ruined, the closer she clings to you.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, FEB. 1, 1879.

Secretary's Department.

J. T. COBB, - - - SCHOOLCRAFT.

Officers and members of Subordinate Granges in corresponding with this office, will please always give the Number of their Grange.

PETITIONING THE LEGISLATURE.

We were at Lansing last week, two days, attending the annual convention of the "Superintendents of the Poor and Union Association."

As our duties of Secretary of that association required nearly all our time, we did not see as much of the Legislature when *on duty*, or its members when *off duty*, as we should have liked. We found our friend, Gov. Sessions quite at his ease and having more leisure than in the early days of the session. There seemed to be no great pressure of business, and from what we saw and heard, we concluded that the Legislature were rather waiting to hear from the people, who sent its members to Lansing.

If I am correct it seems of the utmost importance that we send forward at the earliest day practicable, those petitions which have been distributed over the State and some of which are of vital interest to the people, or to their pockets.

If the Legislature are as ready to carry into effect the wishes of the people when heard from, by memorial or petition, with the emphatic "Be it enacted," as they are to wait for the presentation of these requests, it is safe to say that we shall have some legislation favorable to the interests of the people before the close of the session. It is perhaps unfortunate that the petitions we were required by the State Grange to have printed and furnish to Subordinate Granges were not sent out at an earlier day, but the duties of each succeeding day so filled up our time that the matter was postponed by a sort of necessity from day to day, longer than it should have been. But they have been distributed, and are being signed all over the State, and we hope will be sent to the two Houses with long lists of names of those who desire legislation upon the matters presented.

No petition has been sent out, the granting of which, would not be of advantage to the people of Michigan. When in Lansing we called the attention of several members of the Legislature to the matter of appeal from Justice Courts. We did not happen to strike any one who did not coincide with the views we entertain and have so often expressed.

One lawyer of prominence in the House assured us that this move was all right, that no first-class lawyer desired to see the present usage continued, and give his time even for a consideration to these petty suits that now occupy so large a proportion of the time of our Courts. Is it not true that to-day the people entertain very little respect for courts, and have little confidence in the machinery of the law, This prevailing opinion has largely grown out of the indifference or general disregard of Courts to the interests of the people who employ, and pay for the services of the men who occupy the judicial bench. We cite a case to show why our judicial system commands so little respect among the people. In 1872, a suit was commenced in a Justice's Court

to collect a meat bill of \$21.35, both parties to the suit living in this village. The case was appealed from the Justice's Court to the Circuit Court, the plaintiff obtaining a verdict in both trials. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, and returned for another trial to the Circuit, where another verdict was rendered for the plaintiff. At the end of two years (the time allowed by law in which to appeal from the Circuit to the Supreme Court), the last day in the afternoon, an appeal was again taken to the Supreme Court, the decision of the Circuit Court reversed, and returned again for trial in the Circuit Court of Kalamazoo County. As will be seen, this case commenced six years ago last July. Although the defendant in the first trial did not deny the indebtedness, yet to-day, by the complications of our judicial system, which loses sight of justice altogether in its regard for musty precedents and conflicting decisions, after the parties to the suit have spent hundreds of dollars—and this thing has cost the people, who have no sort of interest in it, hundreds of dollars more—the case is only nearing a decision by the slow process of financial exhaustion. While this is not an average case, and may be an extreme one, still there is not an old-settled County in the State that does not have every year on its calendar cases of no more importance than this, and in fact, no importance whatever to the people, beyond the fact that tens of thousands of dollars are annually collected by the tax-gatherers, and have been for years, and what have the people received in return for this investment? So little that they have come to feel that it is money thrown away, and that the modicum of justice returned to somebody, after that somebody has been exhausted, is a paltry return for the investment made.

Where is the justice, or, before the court of common sense, how can any defense be set up for a law, rule, or usage that allows the defeated party to a suit, two years in which to appeal from the Circuit to the Supreme Court.

If my claim is a just one it is a grievous wrong to keep me out of that which is due me so long after a Court has passed upon the matter in controversy. Many a man has passed from a condition of responsibility to poverty, real or arranged in that time, and the necessity of allowing all this time before the case is again heard, is not apparent to men who have an honest claim and don't expect to live a hundred years.

The tribunal of justice and its accessories is no longer respected by the people. With its original cost, there is no complaint, but the manner of running the expensive machine excludes prudent, careful men from its use altogether, and we have come to feel that it is both a right and duty to ask for legislative interposition. This is not only needed in behalf of the tax-payers, but in behalf of parties to suits, for trivial sums as well, and to that class of litigants who have suits in Courts involving important interests. The Courts are now encumbered with these cases from Justice Courts that have come to be important mainly on account of the large Bill of Costs that follow a judgment; and the delays and expensiveness of suits that have real importance is vastly increased by the presence of these cases in the Circuit Courts, that should never be allowed to go beyond an appeal from the first decision or judgment, to another trial before another justice and another jury, or better still, a Court of Arbitration. This demand for legislative

action, while it is receiving more attention from Patrons in the State than from others, yet *it is not* because they have greater interests involved, for really they have less, because of the fact that by their own obligation requiring them to submit their differences first to arbitration, they are seldom found in Court, and the Patrons of the State are paying very little as litigants, but with other tax-payers we have a common interest in reducing the burdens of taxation, and are particularly solicitous where *so much* is required, and *so little* returned.

We commenced this article with a reference to the Legislature, and we close by urging Patrons to see to it that the several petitions sent out from this office by order of the State Grange, be signed as fully as possible by all who care for the best interests of the people, whether they be Patrons or not.

Few men will refuse to sign any of these petitions. And when you have a good strong list of names, send it forward at once to your members in the House or Senate, and we think your labor will not be wholly lost.

THE VISITOR.

Very many Secretaries and others are sending us more subscribers for the VISITOR than last year, but in some places our friends are tardy, and have not renewed.

Masters and all others who take an interest in the welfare of the Order should remember the general tendency to delay and put off this matter, and it will be found in every place that if we even hold our own, some one must do a little voluntary work. Of course, we depend entirely on our friends for this necessary aid. Any one desiring sample copies will be supplied on application.

To new subscribers we shall send back numbers from Jan. 1st, unless otherwise ordered. Wherever the funds of the Grange will justify, supply every family in the Grange with the VISITOR, from the Grange treasury, and we incline to the opinion that your Grange will not be the poorer for it in the long run.

A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

We hear a bad report about the Master of a Grange in another part of the State having ordered (or had ordered for his own use by a local dealer,) a car load of plaster from a Grand Rapids firm. We should express surprise at this, but for the fact that men always have, and probably always will, sacrifice and sell their principles for a consideration. It is believed by many that "every man has his price," but we never believed that libel on the human race, and we hope we never shall.

But it is humiliating to think that a Patron who was held in such estimation by his fellows as to reach the Master's chair by their votes, should barter his principles, his self respect, and the respect of his fellows for a few shillings, the difference between what the cost of a car load of plaster would have cost him bought of Day & Taylor and what it has cost him bought through some dealer an enemy of the Order.

We again call attention to the fact that there are many Grange Secretaries who have neglected to report to this office the names of Master and Secretary elect for 1879. We cannot make up a list until we have them.

We should be glad if those who have innocently taken advantage of the compositor's mistake and sent \$1.50 for the VISITOR and *Husbandman* would make the matter right by remitting the shortage. See *Husbandman* advertisement.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

After getting out No. 58 we forwarded from time to time "copy" to the printer and to-day, Tuesday Jan. 27th, we took a run to Kalamazoo to see about the make-up of this number. We found a surplus of matter and some that ought to have found a place in this number, crowded out, as what was first sent, though it may have been less important, was set up and must go in.

But it gives us a chance for good selections next time, so look out for a good number Feb. 15.

THE GRANGE—ITS RELATION TO OUTSIDE FARMERS.

By invitation of F. Hodgman, in behalf of Climax Grange, the subject being designated, the following paper was read by J. T. Cobb before the Farmers' Institute, held at Climax, Jan. 14th and 15th, 1879.

The importance of any subject or question largely depends upon the number, or proportion of the whole people, whose interests are directly or indirectly involved.

The subject assigned us for consideration on this occasion, therefore, interests more than half the people of this country, and to some extent, under a general law of dependence, must affect other classes of society.

If, as we who are within "the Gates" allege, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was founded for wise and beneficent purposes, the fact that fifty-two per cent. of the population of this country belongs to the agricultural class, gives to the question great importance. With this view it seems germane to the subject to first enquire, what were the objects sought in the organization of the Order; and next, what has it accomplished, for unless we can show that some good purpose was to be subserved by such organization, and such object has already secured some good results, we have little hope of showing that "the Grange in its relation to outside farmers" is of importance and value, and that position we desire to take and maintain.

In ascertaining what are the objects sought by the Order, we may very properly refer to a declaration of its founders. They said: "The ultimate object of this organization, is for mutual instruction and protection, to lighten labor by diffusing a knowledge of its aims and purposes. To those who read aright, history proves that in all ages society is fragmentary, and successful results of general welfare can be secured only by general effort. Unity of action cannot be acquired without discipline, and discipline cannot be enforced without efficient organization." We will go further and refer to its "Declaration of Purposes," after the Order had an organized existence and membership in more than half the States in the Union.

If these present laudable and praiseworthy objects, with sufficient breadth to entitle them to consideration and support, and we then find that the Order has adhered to the principles it has proclaimed, we may at once conclude that "the relation of the Grange to outside farmers" is such as to command their respectful attention, and we are inclined to add, their undivided support. The Declaration of Purposes from which we give a part, was unanimously adopted by the National Grange at its seventh Session in the City of St. Louis, and sets forth that:

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

2. We heartily endorse the motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." We shall endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to accomplish the following objects:

To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachment to our pursuits. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation. To maintain inviolate our laws, and to emulate each other in labor. To hasten the good time coming. To reduce our expenses, both individual and corporate. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our farms self-sustaining. To diversify our crops, and

crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel, and more on the hoof and fleece. To systematize our work and calculate intelligently on probabilities. To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system that tends to prodigality and bankruptcy.

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

3. For our business interests we desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers, into the most direct and friendly relations possible. We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interests whatever. On the contrary, all our acts and all our efforts, so far as business is concerned, are not only for the benefit of the producer and the consumer, but also for all other interests, and tend to bring these two parties into speedy and economical contact. We are opposed to such spirit or management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies of capital, but we oppose the tyranny of monopolies. We long to see the antagonism between labor and capital removed, by common consent and enlightened statesmanship worthy of the nineteenth century. We are opposed to excessive salaries, high rates of interest and exorbitant profits in trade. They greatly increase our burdens, and do not bear proper proportion to the profits of producers. We desire only self-protection and the protection of every interest of our land by legitimate trade, and legitimate profits.

4. We shall advance the cause of education among ourselves and our children by all just means within our power. We especially advocate for our agricultural and industrial colleges that practical agriculture, domestic science, and all the arts which adorn the home, be taught in their courses of study.

5. We especially and sincerely assert the oft repeated truth taught in our organic law, that the Grange—National, State or Subordinate—is not a political or party organization. No Grange, if true to its obligations, can discuss political or religious questions, nor call political conventions or nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in meetings. Yet the principles we teach underlie all true politics, all true statesmanship, and if properly carried out will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country. For we seek the greatest good to the greatest number. These are American ideas, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American republic."

From the portion we have read, may we not confidently claim that the objects are laudable, and that the ground work or foundations are sufficiently broad and well laid, to warrant an honest, earnest effort, to build a noble superstructure, worthy of that large class by whose labor the world is fed.

As there is little merit in mere professions of faith, or declarations of good intentions, we come now to enquire what has been accomplished in the few brief years since this Order came to the surface and claimed recognition.

It is quite unnecessary to prove by facts and figures that the great railroad corporations of this country, were trampling upon the rights of the people, and under the impudent claim of "chartered or vested rights" were exacting from the people unreasonable and oppressive rates of both fares and freight.

This assumption on the part of railroad corporations, was not only a basis of practical robbery, in the great grain growing States of the west, but sustained and enforced anywhere, is a distinct blow at the liberties of a people.

Successful resistance to these exactions could only come through organized, systematic effort on the part of those who suffered wrong. The Grange by the simple fact of organization became

the opposing force—the representative of the agricultural interests of the country, which was being oppressed; and standing upon a great cardinal principle, boldly grappled with these mammoth corporations, and fought its battles through all the Courts to the highest judicial tribunal known to our government, and successfully vindicated the principle that "The creature can never rise above and be independent of the Creator."

Making a virtue of necessity, the soundness of the principle established by the Supreme Court of the United States, is now conceded by some of the most prominent representatives of the railroad interests of the country.

Chas. Francis Adams, a man of national reputation, eminent as a writer upon railroad affairs, and largely interested as a stockholder and railway manager, in his report as chairman of the Mass. R. R. Com'n. in 1877, in referring to the stand taken by the Patrons against the unjust assumption of power by the railroads a few years ago, uses the following significant language. "Of the Granger episode, little needs now be said that it did not originate without cause, has already been pointed out. It is quite safe to go further, and say that the movement was a necessary one, and through its results have made a solution of the railroad problem possible in this country." "At the time the movement took shape, the railroad corporations were assuming a position that could not be tolerated." And farther along in his report referring to the decision of the Supreme Court, he says: "That nothing short of it would apparently have sufficed to force them out of their position of stupid, fighting defiance."

The statutes framed for and in behalf of the people of our neighboring States on the west, will long stand a proud monument to the vigor and persistency of the Patrons of Husbandry and the value of organization.

We next call your attention to another combination, or class of individuals or companies, that have been, and still are, preying upon the people, and are intent upon getting something for nothing. We mean the owners and assignees of patent rights.

While we recognise a property right in the product of inventive skill, that is entitled to protection, we have no respect for the men or their allies, who having become rich by the unreasonable prices levied on the user of the articles so protected, have by bribery on other means equally obnoxious to the public sense of right and justice, obtained a re-issue of their patents. So rapacious have been these sharpers, that a man dealing in patent rights is everywhere looked upon with suspicion.

By well directed efforts of the Grange, the re-issues of patents to sewing machine companies, and other monopolies has in several instances been prevented. This in connection with the partial breaking up of a usage among manufacturers that had become a law, has enabled the consumer, or user of many manufactured articles to purchase the implement or machine, at a reasonable profit above the cost of manufacture.

In our own State, we cite our contest with the "Mich. and Ohio Plaster Association," as a signal instance of successful resistance, and the overthrow of a combination of manufacturers who not only placed an unreasonable price upon their product, but refused to deal with the farmers of the State, (who alone had use for that product) upon the same terms as with a few intermediate parties or agents.

The fight was spirited and determined, costing the State Grange of Michigan a few hundred dollars, and saving to the farmers of the State more than \$60,000 annually.

But we should not forget, nor will we, that the founders of the Order had in mind the social and educational interests of the farmers of the United States, more than any other object, when they launched this organization upon that ocean of uncertainty that lies before every new enterprise.

The general public do not so well know, that its social and educational features were the central ideas which inspired these pioneer workers, and that not until the Order had been established, and acquired some strength, were the co-operative and business features attached to it.

These latter purposes were what first stimulated opposition, and caused the Order to be misunderstood by the public for several years, and it is still urged by many who have but vague notions of the purposes of the Order, and what it

has already accomplished, that it should confine its efforts to benefit the farmer, simply in his social relations.

These social advantages have been so often recited, and are so apparent, that I shall give them but a passing notice. It is sufficient to say that our social enjoyments constitute a large share of what goes to make up the sum total of human happiness, and to the farmer's wife, particularly in our rural districts, who in the nature of the case, was giving her time, her thoughts, and even her very life, to household cares and duties; the Grange has opened wide a door, and bid her welcome to new avenues of thought and association.

Of the educational advantages which the Grange affords, and its possibilities for good we might enlarge beyond the limits to which this paper should be confined. But we shall give but a few sentences to this branch of the subject. It is safe to say, what we know, we first learn, and we are all equally well aware that our education is not confined to our youth, but all through our riper years we are adding to our stock of knowledge.

The Grange is a school to those who have passed beyond the confines of the school-house, and by its opportunities, with pleasant surroundings, and associations, affords the very best advantages to those who are disposed to become more intelligent farmers. It is true, all are not alike benefited by it—nor will all who are here present be alike benefited by attending this Institute. He is however, wisest, who neglects no opportunity to become better acquainted with his chosen profession. If in the Grange we learn ever so little, that little will go to the credit side of our account.

It will not be denied that our common Schools, our Colleges, our Granges, our Farmer's Institutes, and all our varied organizations and institutions where the arts and sciences are theoretically and practically taught, and morality and religion are inculcated, go to make up what we designate as our civilization, and constitute the difference more or less, between that condition of life and barbarism itself.

From our stand point, we do not timidly say that perhaps the Grange is doing some good, but on the contrary we confidently assert that it is performing an important part in the grand advance in every department of human knowledge, which characterizes this century.

The Grange, in the few brief years of its existence has established itself in nearly every State in the Union, and to-day commands the confidence of men high in authority in our State and National Governments. In support of this, we refer to the invitation from the President of the United States, and from the Commissioner of Agriculture, extended to the members of the National Grange when in session last November, in the city of Richmond, to visit the President at the White House, and the Commissioner at his Department. The invitation was accepted, and the call proved satisfactory to all concerned.

The Michigan State Grange accepted an invitation cordially expressed, to hold its late Session in the Hall of the House of Representatives, in the people's new Capitol at Lansing.

We feel that we have a right to construe these events, as a public recognition of the honest purpose of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, to elevate the calling of the farmer, and that the fact itself, places not only the Order, but the agricultural class, and agriculture itself upon a higher plane in this country.

The founders of our Order saw the farmer ignored in society, places of emolument and trust occupied mostly by men from other vocations, they saw the need of united, concerted action on the part of farmers, if they would secure a better standing among their fellows. They saw that other classes had better facilities for education, and greater opportunities for social enjoyment, and as these are essential to that "human happiness which is the acme of earthly ambition," they devised and set on foot a scheme to aid in securing these objects.

In this, the great success which has attended the Order—the prominence to which it has so soon attained—the influence which it is to-day exerting in families, in neighborhoods, in our halls of Legislation, both State and National, affords gratifying proof that its founders "built better than they knew." We have referred to the purposes of the founders of the Order—to some things already accomplished, but do not suppose for a moment our work is done.

There is ample room for improvement in practical farming, and though every

Grange may not contribute to such improvement, the Order as a whole most certainly will. Nor is it likely to be satisfied with improvement in farming only. In common with all other citizens who contribute to the support of the government for the protection which it in turn guarantees, the Patron is interested in just laws and their economical administration.

While it is our pride to be able to say that the Order has faithfully regarded the constitutional prohibition which forbids the discussion of political or religious questions in the Grange, yet our "Declaration of Purposes" as strongly asserts the right and duty of all, to strive to secure just and wholesome laws, and lessen litigation, both in amount and expensiveness.

In civil affairs are many wrongs demanding attention. If the spirit of the age has reached the judicial department of the country, it has had an effect in the opposite direction from what is shown in all other departments of business. The two most important elements in operating the machinery of the law, seem to be to consume time, and make costs. Few of our most judicious, careful men of any class are found in court, either as plaintiff or defendant, for the simple reason, that such men have no confidence in the administration of law—are, in short afraid of the whole machinery of courts, preferring to suffer loss, injury, or thinly disguised robbery, if not in silence, at least without resistance, rather than take the chances of delay and loss that are sure to follow any attempt to secure justice in our courts, and yet these men contribute without complaint to the support and maintenance of a usage that is as disgraceful to our civilization, as it is expensive and unsatisfactory. Shall we go on from year to year, paying court expenses, that in half the cases amount to more than the sum in controversy. Not only our judicial system, but in the unequal distribution of the burdens of taxation, in the salaries and perquisites of some of our elective officers, shall we find subjects for discussion, and such action as it is our province to exercise. To even the casual observer, indications of a strife in the near future, between grasping capital on the one hand and poverty associated with lawlessness on the other, have appeared with alarming frequency within the last few years.

While we recognise the growing power and danger to the best interests and liberties of the people, which lie in vast accumulations of capital, yet the Grange inculcating a strict obedience to law, will be found opposed to all aggrarianism, all communism, and ready to resist encroachments by legitimate and lawful means only.

In summarizing our conclusion, we feel authorized to assert, that in its "relation to outside farmers," the Grange has been of benefit—in that, it has obtained a judicial decision from the Supreme Court of the United States, affirming the right of States to control and determine the railroad charges for freight and passage transportation, within their respective limits, and secured by legislation to some extent more reasonable rates of compensation for work performed.

The Grange has been of benefit in its "relation to outside farmers" in that, it has prevented the re-issue of Patents to monopolies of certain manufactured articles and implements, thus reducing the cost to the purchaser in many instances more than one-half.

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The Grange has been of benefit in its "relation to outside farmers," in that, it has invaded and at least partially broken down a usage that had arrayed itself against the interests of the farmers and laborers of the country, by requiring intermediate parties to always stand between the manufacturer and the user or consumer of his products.

The Grange has been of benefit in its "relation to outside farmers," in that, educational and social influence (which is its prominent characteristic) and under a general or universal law, the personal improvement made and knowledge gained by individual members—the discussions had by Patrons of the many questions of practical farming, of representation, of taxation, of insurance, and hundreds of others that affect our class, became a positive force, and

has exerted a constant influence for good. No one will deny that such influence, going out from any body, or association of people who are actively engaged in any meritorious work, must permeate all surroundings, and that it tends to elevate to a higher plane the agricultural class.

We have made reference to a few only of the more important results affecting those "who reap where they have not sown," and have indicated our confidence in the good results that can only be expected through organization.

The Grange presents to the vast body of farmers of this country, the first and only compact organization, calculated to protect and promote our interests, and by its past record proves the sincerity of its professions and its ability to cope with, and overcome many existing evils.

In this the Grange has shown "to the outside farmer," that its social relations are friendly, its business relations profitable, and its civil relations progressive.

Correspondence.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Write upon pages of a single size,
Cross all your r's, and neatly dot your i's;
On one side only let your lines be seen—
Both sides filled up announce a Verdant Green.
Correct—yes, re-correct—all that you write,
And let your ink be black, your paper white;
For spongy foils and a muddy blue
Betrays a mind of the same dismal hue.
Punctuate carefully, for on this score
Nothing claims the practiced writer more.
Then send it off, and, lest it merit lack,
Inclose the postage-stamp to send it back;
But first pay all the postage on it too,
For editors look black on "two pence due,"
And murmur as they run the effusion o'er,
"A shabby fellow and a wretched bore!"
Yet ere it goes, take off a copy clean—
Poets should own a copying machine;
Little they know the time that's spent and care
In hunting verses vanished—who knows where?
Bear this in mind, observe it to the end,
And you shall make the editor your friend.

WORKING GRANGE, No. 509.

Dear Bro. Cobb:

I do not remember ever seeing anything in the VISITOR to indicate that Working Grange, No. 509, still lives and has a being, except the mute figures (509); I thought I would attempt to pen a few lines, and, perhaps through fraternal charity they may not be consigned to the waste basket.

We have a nice little Grange of some thirty odd, live, wide-awake members, who seem to instinctively know how to appreciate and be benefited by the many advantages of our noble Order. We are not able yet to build a hall of our own, but are able to rent one of a brother on reasonable terms; and as "the Grange has come to stay," and we hope soon to take in more new members, we think the times is not far off when we shall build a "home" of our own.

We meet twice a month, and hold one regular and one special meeting, and have a good profitable season each time, and then our Worthy Master says, we do not meet often enough.

We enliven our meetings with literary exercises of different kinds, and the good results are plainly noticeable to even those outside the gate. On the evening of the 7th inst., the officers of our Grange were installed. Our distinguished brother, Charles E. Mickleby, by invitation was present and addressed us. Brother Mickleby, in his happy and forcible manner, spoke for two hours. His arguments were strong, logical and truthful, every word of which breathed encouragement to the farmer, whether he be a Patron or not. That all were well pleased and richly rewarded, the many expressions of approval amply testify. I am very glad the management of the VISITOR is still in able hands, for with us and many of our members, it has become a household necessity. I hope its circulation will increase, until every farmer in the State has subscribed for it.

The letters in its columns from brothers and sisters scattered all over our beautiful Peninsula, make me feel as though the year 1879 has dawned upon the Grange with brighter prospects than ever before. Then I would say, brothers and sisters take courage, for I am sure that not one-half the benefit has been realized through the Order that the Patron is yet destined to receive.

Fraternally yours,
T. G. CHANDLER.

SHERWOOD BRANCH Co., MICH.,
January 15th, 1879.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

Sherwood Grange No. 96 is still alive and thriving, its members are not as numerous as they were when it first started, but after all it contains as much, if not more strength than before it unburdened its drift wood. Our officers were duly installed on Tuesday, the 7th inst., by the Hon. Cyrus G. Luce of this County, and our hall was well filled by Grangers, and also a good sprinkling of others. Before proceeding to install, Bro. Luce gave a splendid talk of about an hour and a half. He did not explain so much how to buy 6 cent calico for 5 cents, as he did the opportunities of the farmer and the farmer's wife in the Grange, for fitting them for the higher attainments of usefulness in life. I am not able to begin to do our highly esteemed brother justice for manner and matter of what he said. Suffice it to say, that we all went away stimulated with his good words of advice, for he made us all feel more earnest to go into the great and good work so nobly commenced.

We hear very much talk now days, and also much is written upon the subject of *hard times*, bad government—of its cause, cure, &c. Of bad government I would say, government in the long run is usually no better than the people governed. Where the mass is sound in morals and habit, the nation will be ruled honestly and nobly. But where the people are corrupt, self-seeking and dishonest in heart, bound neither by truth, or by law, the rule of rogues and wire-pullers becomes inevitable. A constitutional government like ours rests its safety, prosperity and thrift entirely in the hands of the governed, and as the national strength and spirit should as a general thing be recruited from the ranks of those who found industries and carve out new careers—farmers and working men—how necessary for us as farmers to educate ourselves up to that high standard of fitness for important positions in governmental affairs.

Let us stop our fault-finding, and go to work and lift ourselves out of the quagmire into which we have fallen, and by earnest effort of laboring people our nation will also be lifted up.

WM. LEHR,

Lecturer of Sherwood Grange No. 96.

BYERS, Jan. 12, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I will not argue the question in regard to the Missionary work suggested to be organized by the State Grange, but think there could be many strong arguments advanced to support the plan I proposed. I have changed my mind somewhat after visiting a majority of the Subordinate Granges in our County since I wrote to you. Installed officers of Grange No. 474, on the 4th inst., of Grange No. 362, on the 7th inst., and of Grange No. 475 on the 11th; had a good meeting at all of them, but particularly at Forest No. 362, which installation was public, and I find what is most needed, is to make the Subordinate Grange meetings interesting, so as to induce a regular attendance. If we as members of Subordinate Granges do not see the fact in this light, the National, State, and Pomona Granges can not help us, nor all the deputies the State Grange could send here would not save us when our disease is chronic. As a Subordinate Grange, we have to commence the cure within ourselves, furnish our own physicians, nurses and medicine. It's for us to determine whether we make our noble Order a financial, moral, social and intellectual success, a power of good in the land and nation, or allow it to become a poor dying, struggling organization, scorned and despised by all other classes. Let me here say, I think Grange literature is good and sound, and in particular the Grange VISITOR is good medicine for Subordinate Granges in this part of the State, or any other, for that matter. In speaking of the Grange VISITOR, our Grange, Fern No. 475, voted at their last meeting to supply every family belonging to it with the VISITOR, to be paid for out of Treasury of the Grange, we have done the same thing for 3 years, and find it a good investment, and I would advise every Grange to go and do likewise, and I think the dark cloud which is overshadowing some Granges, would soon show its silver lining and eventually entirely disappear.

Yours, Fraternally,
JOHN F. BYERS.

HOME GRANGE, No. 188,
COLOMA, Jan. 1st, 1878.

Brother Cobb:

I am sorry that I have had so little success in getting subscribers for the VISITOR, I believe the State Grange does a good thing in cutting off the supply of free copies to the Masters of Subordinate Granges. The Master of a Grange who has not the welfare of our Order at heart, to the extent of 50 cents ought not have a copy free, especially if they make no effort to enlarge the subscription. The VISITOR should be in the hands of every Patron, thus extending an influence over the land that would add thousands to our numbers; in short the Order in Michigan should make it a weekly paper, and be enlarged so that it could grapple with all the wrongs and legislation that aims to saddle on the farmer an undue portion of the public burthen. Notwithstanding, the aim of the Order was to induce Patrons to pay as they go, many still follow the injurious habit of contracting debts at the store, and just so long as they follow that practice they will be poor. I am convinced that a mistake was made in the organization of many Granges in the State, in receiving all that offered themselves; a majority of them are a worthless class. For the purpose of arousing and re-invigorating many of the Granges, I believe the State Grange should have adopted some measure whereby lecturers should visit the weak Granges. As it is, much depends on our County organizations. It is clear that the political press is hostile to the Order, and I can see no other way whereby the claims of Patrons can be brought before the public than in supporting a paper in the State that will give the current news of the day as well. I am convinced that if in some way our farmers were informed of the general benefit the Grange has achieved in staying off the extension of patents and other equally important reforms, our go-a-head farmers would not as many of them now do, look upon it with distrust, and in no other way can this prejudice be overcome so well as by public lectures, and Grange literature.

Yours Fraternally,

J. L. MCKEAN.

BIRMINGHAM, Jan. 14, 1879.

A special meeting of Oakland County Grange, P. of H. will be held with the Ortonville Grange, on Tuesday, January 28th, 1879, with the following programme:

- 10 a. m.—Opening of Grange.
- 10 to 11 a. m.—Regular order of business.
- 11 to 12 m.—How shall we make our Subordinate and Pomona Granges more interesting and useful? Discussion opened by Rev. Ira W. Donaldson.
- 12 to 1:30 p. m.—Recess.
- 1:30 to 3 p. m.—The farmer's relation to public policy. Discussion opened by Hon. R. E. Townbridge.
- 3 to 4 p. m.—Miscellaneous business, and remarks for the good of the Order. All fourth degree members are invited to be present and participate.

J. JACKSON, Sec'y.

MARILLA, Jan. 22, 1879.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

The Manistee District Pomona Grange, No. 21, held its quarterly and annual meeting, at Bear Lake the 14th and 15th.

Bro. Woodman has added one new leaf to the history of his travels, away up here in the wilds of the earth, and which he will, perhaps, richly embellish with illustrations. We will only say we hope it will not be his last visit among us. His public addresses, both at Bear Lake and Sherman, were of great interest to all—outsiders, as well as Patrons, and think good will result to both, especially the latter.

The election of officers resulted as follows: H. A. Danville, of Marilla, Master; Jas. McKay, of Bear Lake, Lecturer; Mrs. Jennie A. Pope, of Marilla, Secretary. The next meeting is to be held in Marilla, commencing Tuesday, Apr. 1, 2 o'clock, p. m.

Fraternally,

MRS. JENNIE A. POPE,
Sec'y Manistee District Grange, No. 21.

CASCADE, Jan. 23, 1879.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

We had a public installation of officers of Cascade Grange, No. 63, P. of H. last evening at our new hall, and had a large audience of Brothers, Sisters and neighbors. After the installation, had a rousing speech from Bro. Moore, of Adrian. Everybody was delighted, and felt it was good to be a Granger, and we confidently expect good results.

C. BUTTRICK, JR.

Advice to Shippers—Roll Butter.

Office of Business Ag't of the P. of H.,
CHICAGO, Jan. 23, 1879.

To those shipping roll butter, new tubs, hardwood, whitewood boxes, or half bbls. make good packages, they should hold not to exceed 100 lbs. Never use pine, it will spoil butter in 24 hours, it imparts a very unpleasant flavor to it. Whatever package you use, line it with white muslin, having first washed out the starch—never use paper, near rolls or tub, wrap each roll with a piece of white muslin, having been thoroughly wet with strong brine, let the rolls be of uniform color and size as near as can be; never make the rolls of large size; cover nicely from dirt, and then if the butter was good in the first place, your chances for a good price in this market are much better than in the careless manner in which it is generally sent, but let me add as a rule, I would prefer you should send your butter in tubs, as the demand is more speedy for that class of packages, and will sell on an average of 2 to 4 cts. per lb. more than roll of equal quality. Market good for all choice grades.

Fair to fancy, creameries, 25 to 29 cents; good to fancy, dairies, 18 to 23 cents; good June, solid, 10 to 12½ cents; store packed, fresh, 10 to 12½ cents; roll, fine to fancy, 15 to 16 cents; roll, fair to choice, 12 to 14 cents; roll worked over, 6 to 8 cents.

To insure the best prices, mark package,
T. MASON,
183 Water St., Chicago, Ill.
Stencils sent on application.

JEDDO, Jan. 11th, 1879,

St. Clair County, Mich.)

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Find enclosed five dollars for the Grange VISITOR, to be sent as follows:

We are bound to furnish the VISITOR to every family belonging to our Grange, if we have to pay for it out of the Grange Treasurer. I see by the last VISITOR, that the Secretary receives a copy free for ten names and the cash, (\$5). Will send more names soon.

We installed the officers of our Grange this evening, and had a very pleasant meeting, every one elected was present, and it does look as if Jeddo Grange with the help of the VISITOR would revive. We have a good hall, with a paid up lease for 12 years, and some money in the Treasury, and I think we have the best officers that we ever had, (excepting Secretary) but our best qualified members for Secretary will not always attend. We have two members that have not missed over three meetings since the Grange was organized in 1874, Worthy Master Locke, and your humble servant. What an influence the Grange would have to-day if all had done as well.

Wishing the Grange VISITOR success, I remain,
Fraternally yours,
L. W. BROWN, Sec'y.

SAGINAW, Jan. 23d, 1879.

Worthy Secretary:

Please find enclosed our quarterly report with dues, also \$1.50 for GRANGE VISITOR, as follows.

At our next meeting, I will try and get subscribers enough to procure a copy for our Secretary, free.

Our Grange is gradually gaining ground, and our meetings are well attended and interesting. At our installation on the 4th inst. we had a very good time. There were visitors present from other Granges, and one sleigh load from Bay County. After the installation services, the following resolutions were introduced:

Resolved, That the legislative bodies of our nation are composed too largely of capitalists and lawyers, and too few of its farmers are lawmakers;

Resolved, That the only hope of the American farmer to gain his representative rights in the councils of our nation is through the organization of the Grange, which though not political, should affect politics.

After liberal discussion, they were unanimously adopted.

Yours fraternally,
J. M. WILTZE, Master of 599.

THREE RIVERS, Jan. 27, 1879.

Ed. Grange Visitor:

At the annual meeting of St. Joseph Co. Pomona Grange, No. 4, held at Grange hall in Centerville, on the 23d of January, 1879, its officers were elected and installed.

J. H. Gardner, Master, Centerville Grange; Guttelius Snyder, Sec'y, Riverside Grange; W. G. Leland, Secretary, Riverside Grange.

The St. Joseph County Pomona Grange, No. 4, will hold its next meeting on the 1st Thursday of March, at Grange hall in Centerville. Meeting commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. All Patrons are cordially invited to attend.
W. G. LELAND, Sec'y.

of its vast accumulated profits is able to and doubtless will employ able representatives to protect its monopoly in this State, backed by plenty of money, still the people have a right to expect that their representatives will not permit this corporation to perpetuate its monopoly of the oil trade of Michigan. It now controls it to the extent that it says who may and who shall not sell oil in job lots, and its power is such that dealers whom it has interdicted cannot obtain oil, although they have the money to pay for it, and no other dealer dare sell to them under pain of being themselves shut out of the trade.

The special test required by the Michigan law enables them to exercise this power, and to compel the consumers of oil in this State to pay very much more for oil than citizens of other States pay, and for an article no safer or with no more illuminating power. It is charged, also, that this monopoly "owns" and controls the inspection of oil in this State. In support of this allegation, the *Eagle* will in a few days publish some letters and dispatches that indicate very strongly that the charge is well founded. The Standard Oil Company is able to and probably will, at the present session, employ chemists to prove to the committees of the House and Senate that the Standard Oil Company is a benevolent corporation, and that its only endeavor and highest ambition is to protect the people of Michigan from being imposed upon by impure and unsafe oil. There are chemists in the State ready and willing to put up a job on petroleum or Clawson wheat for a consideration, and the Standard Oil Company has the means to employ them and secure faithful work.

Petitions have been sent from the Secretary's office to every Grange in the State. Let us use them and get not only every Patron by every neighbor to sign them, and shower them upon our servants in Lansing. Let us use personal efforts as members to secure the arm of law for rather than against us. Then mark well their votes, and record them as faithful or unfaithful, and remember that they never vote again as Representatives if untrue to the people.

"The rates of interest," "The School Tax and Books," "The Taxing of Mortgages," "The Female Department in the Agricultural College," "The Reform School for Girls," and other questions are before us for consideration. Let us watch our Legislature. Let us ask of them what we want and keep asking until we get our desire.

Let us watch our Congress, where not a farmer is from Agricultural, Michigan, yes, and even pray that they may feel how ill they represent us, and by resignation give us a chance to place a worthy farmer, who shall indeed, be a man from the people, sent by the people, to work for the people.

AMEN.

Home Decorations.

"We aim to encourage the planting of fruits and flowers, by which to enhance the value and increase the attractions of our homes, adorning them with those beauties so lavishly given us by the God of Nature." So says our beautiful installation service, and in many another places is the decoration of home taught in our golden pages. Let us endeavor to practice such noble precepts and beautify our surroundings, the childhood teachers of our children. Let us make them attractive, not that they may be more valuable and see better, but that they may be the elements of happiness to ourselves and our families.

Let us enlarge the attractions of the homestead, rendering it more enjoyable to its occupants, and at the same developing in their heart a true love of the beautiful, and a taste for nature's higher forms of loveliness.

Plant fruits—they furnish health and comfort, and contribute to domestic happiness. Plant vegetables—in them is a constant supply of variety to adorn the table and tempt the appetite.

Plant flowers—beautify your homes with them. "Their study and culture invariable elevate, never degrade." They are the stars of earth. In them are the emblems of every grace and virtue known to man. They are the messengers of God, sent to tell us of the beauty and purity and grandeur of Paradise. Foster and cherish them. Plant, protect and nourish them about your dwelling, and give them space within to cheer the winter hours while

they purify the air and embellish your home. Study plants and flowers if you would love and enjoy them. Their variety is endless—their habits full of interest.

To those who would prepare most fully to enjoy and be successful in floriculture, I would suggest the study of books relating to the subject, and Magazines devoted to this fine art. But of Magazines for both the flower and vegetable garden is "VICK'S ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY." Its 32 pages are monthly, well filled with excellent matter, and well illustrated by good artists. One or more colored plates appear each month, and are alone worth the cost of the volume. Thinking that many Patrons would like this beautiful monthly, I have arranged to send it to them at the lowest club rates. The regular price is \$1.25 per year, and I will send it to any Patron for \$1.00, and a 3 cent stamp to pay postage. The *VISITOR* and "Magazine," for \$1.50. Send in your orders promptly and enjoy the reading you will get these long winter evenings.

"Your voiceless lips, O Flowers! are living preachers;
Each cup a pulpit, every leaf a book,
Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers,
From loneliest nook."

"Floral Apostles! that in dewy splendor
'Weep without woe, and blush without crime,'
Oh, may I deeply learn, and ne'er surrender,
Your love sublime."

Appointments.

The Lecturer's appointments will be governed by one at Hudsonville, Feb. 13 and 14, and at Lansing, Feb. 18, 19 and 20; also 21st and 22d. Write me there as from there I can meet other Granges. Write soon, if I am wanted.
C. L. WHITNEY, Lecturer.

Communications.

The other Side of the Interest Question.

J. T. Cobb, Editor GRANGE VISITOR:
I notice in the *VISITOR* of late that the interest question is receiving considerable attention, and as there are usually two sides to a question, so I think there are to this, and I propose to say a few words on the unpopular side, well knowing that I shall call down on my head the anathemas of many of your readers.

Some years since I left Vermont to live in southern Indiana. While there I was offered two per cent. per month for money by a railroad contractor, which I at first refused, having had in my mind from youth, the idea that any one who would take more than six per cent. was little better than a robber. After being assured by him that he could afford to pay it, that he had taken his contracts with the expectation of paying that rate of interest, I accepted his offer, and soon found that although 7 per cent. was the legal interest, very little of any money was loaned at that rate. The Branch of the State Bank loaned to some of its customers at the legal rate, but usually sold bills of exchange on Cincinnati, charging enough for exchange to make the rate of interest 10 or 12 per cent., at the same time assuring the party borrowing that it could be paid when due at their (the bank's) own counter.

While living there I became acquainted with a farmer who owned a large farm, and who raised hay largely for market. People called him a shrewd man. He watched the markets closely, and only sold when hay was high—when hay was low he borrowed money and held his hay for a rise in the market, but was always denouncing the banks for charging him extra interest. I asked him if raising hay at \$8.00 per ton did not pay him well—he said yes, but he usually held it until it was worth \$18.00 or \$20.00 per ton. I told him I thought it quite as bad for him to speculate in hay, as the bank in money, and so less than a year's residence in the west, dissipated my Yankee notions of usury, and I have never since been able to see any more wrong in my taking what I can get for the use of my money, than for my wool, or any of my farm products, and I think the State has no more right to say what I shall get in the one case than the other. Suppose the Legislature of Michigan should pass such a usury law as some of the Granges advocate. The result would be all the money loaned in your State from the

east would be collected at the earliest moment, and loaned in States west of you when there is no trouble in getting 10 per cent., with good real estate security. In your issue of 16th inst., H. H. Taylor says, no man can pay over 5 per cent. in any legitimate business. Now I know of men in Michigan engaged in a legitimate business, who make money by borrowing at 10 per cent. Farmers cannot do it, unless farming pays better in Michigan than it does in Vermont. But shall the State say that those who can afford to pay 10 per cent. shall not, because some cannot. When the Granges thought the plaster companies of Michigan charged too much for plaster, why didn't they petition the Legislature to limit the price to what they thought would be right? Let money stand the same chance as merchandise or farm products being governed by the law of supply and demand.

VERMONT FARMER.

Management of Sheep.

In the *Bulletin* of May 30th, 1878, we were glad to see from J. Bell an article entitled, "What Wools Shall We Grow." Sheep-breeders and flock-masters need to be stirred up to a knowledge of their duty to their flocks. The adage that anything that is worth doing is worth doing well, is no where more appropriately given than in connection with the breeding and rearing of Merino sheep. Carefully, judiciously, and economically done, no farm employment is more remunerative. Sheep-raising requires less grain-raising than does other stock, and therefore requires less hard, physical labor on man. Raising a less acreage of grain will renovate our soil, which is difficult to do with the continual cropping which is necessary in feeding cattle and hogs. Another item of importance is the quantity and quality of manure, which Randal says (in *Randal's Practical Shepherd*) is superior to all other stock. We would also call the attention of the reader to the manner in which sheep discharge their manure. Being in small pellets it is evenly distributed over the pastures, which makes it more available as plant-food, than the discharges from horses, etc.

To insure profit, sheep as well as other stock require regular attention. As Mr. Bell states, we cannot expect success if we turn out great numbers together and expect them to take care of themselves; to find shelter from cold rains in the forest, where they are often compelled to paw through crusted snow for a scanty supply of wild, dead grass. Such treatment should come under the head of wanton cruelty to dumb animals. No animal appreciates good winter shelter more than the sheep. How restlessly at night they wait their master's arrival to let them into the sheepfold, arranged with commodious racks, filled with clover hay, or corn-fodder. To notice such things certainly ought to make us deeply interested in the animal which grows our clothing. It is a bad practice which some have here of wintering sheep without grain, and almost as bad to delay feeding grain until about spring, and then feed lavishly. To grow an even, strong and pliable staple of wool, sheep should be fed grain very sparingly, commencing about the first of November, and increasing the quantity gradually until midwinter, and again decreasing the quantity from the first of March until the pastures are good. A half-bushel of feed, composed of equal parts of shelled corn, oats and bran, regularly fed through the winter to 100 sheep every morning will produce better results than heavy feeding can late in the winter. Lambs should be fed a little oats as soon as they are taken away from their dams. It is a good idea to leave a tame old ewe with the lambs when weaned, as the lambs soon learn to imitate her. We have often thought that a very limited amount of light feed, such as oats and bran, given to lambs as soon as they will eat it, is work done in a good direction; it makes lambs grow nicely and learns them habits of gentleness. We have some lambs which we have fed a little bran and oats every morning this summer, separate from their dams, and I think they have made a good growth. To-day (July 10) four ram lambs weigh 276 pounds, four ewe rams 227 pounds. These lambs were dropped the latter part of March. By judicious feeding, watering, and comfortably housing through winter, a flock can be made to clip from two to three pounds more of wool of far more excellent quality than can be produced if the sheep are left to take care of themselves.

Sheep, like all other stock, during the summer season grow better on plenty of good, fresh, but not too rank, pasture, free from weeds, and supplied with fresh water, and salt once a week. Never allow thistles or burrs to ripen in pastures; it is not only unprofitable but is also very slothful. Never turn sheep, horses, cattle and hogs in a lot together, if it can be possibly avoided. The proper way is a place for each.

Fraternally.

W. L. MORSE,
Raymonds, Union Co., O.

Meetings of County Granges.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT.—Hillsdale Pomona Grange, No. 10, will hold its next regular meeting at the Hall of Moscow Grange, No. 108, at Moscow village, on Thursday, Feb'y 6th, 1879. All 4th degree members are cordially invited to attend, and take in the exercises, part of the day.

G. M. GARDNER, Sec'y.
Litchfield, Jan. 13, 1879.

Cass County Grange No. 20, P. of H. will hold a meeting at Cassopolis, on Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 1879, at 10 a. m.
W. E. WILLIAMS, Sec'y.

BANGOR, Jan. 15th, 1879.
Bro. J. T. Cobb:

The Van Buren County Grange will meet at Porter Grange Hall, Feb'y 6th. All 4th degree members in the vicinity are cordially invited to attend.
F. Goss, Sec'y.

THE *Graphic* of Thursday has a telling presentation of Vanderbilt's evasion of taxation. The subject is "Our Pauper Millionaire," a figure with Wm. H. Vanderbilt's well-known face, clad in rags, boots out at the toes, and having in one pocket a projecting document with the inscription "Deed for 5th ave. real estate, \$500,000." From one hand, wires extend to the Western Union building, New York Central and Hudson River depot, to steamships, locomotives, elevators and warehouses, indicating the class of stocks he controls. In the other hand he holds the reproduced *fac simile* of his oath that the value of his personal property, including shares and stocks of every description, "does not exceed \$0. My debts exceed all my taxable property." Mr. Vanderbilt owns more personal property, in New York Central and Hudson River, Lake Shore, Michigan Central, and Western Union shares, than any man in America. He has vast fortunes invested in pictures and fast horses, and is on the point of erecting the finest residence in New York city to accommodate his household possessions. His railroads earn \$12,000,000 a year. Yet he swears that he has no personal property, and if the question is to go on his oath other people must carry the burden of his taxation. He will probably find a checkmate to that game if he persists in continuing it, in a hostile movement from the public, that will put an inquisitorial inspection on his affairs like that of the income tax. The *Graphic* merits public gratitude for exposing the game in a way that will bring people to their senses.—*Kalamazoo Telegraph*.

Our Old Friend, the Apple.

The genuine apple-eater, comforts himself with an apple, in their season, as others with a pipe or cigar. When he has nothing else to do, or is bored, he eats an apple. While he is waiting for the train, he eats an apple, sometimes several of them. When he takes a walk, he arms himself with apples. His traveling-bag is full of apples. He offers an apple to his traveling companion, and takes one himself. They are his chief solace when on the road. He sows their seed all along the route.

He tosses the core from the car window and from the top of the stage coach. He would in time make the land one vast orchard. He dispenses with a knife. He prefers that his teeth shall have the first taste. Then he knows the best flavor is immediately beneath the skin, and that in a pared apple this is lost. If you will stew the apple, he says, instead of baking it, by all means leave the skin on. It improves the color, and vastly heightens the flavor of the dish.—*American Rural Home*.

THE Hillsdale Agricultural Society holds property valued at \$80,000, and is entirely out of debt.

