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Proposed National Legislation on Agriculture.

At a meeting of the Ithaca Farmers' Club, held Jan. 3d, 1880, the undersigned were appointed a committee to communicate with the Agricultural Committee, recently appointed by the United States Senate, the long established conviction of its members as to the necessary action of the Government in relation to agriculture.

Individual efforts cannot accomplish many things that are necessary to the protection of large interests, or render the aid that is required to develop new industries that promise certain success.

The cattle disease is a frightful cloud, threatening to overcast the whole country, and needs competent men, clothed with authority, to stand on guard, to prevent its spread, and to destroy every living germ as soon as known. The dairy interests of the Northern States, and the great cattle fields of the West, are of too much importance to the nation to be put in jeopardy, when attention and vigilance would secure protection. England's losses by millions from this disease should admonish us to act in time.

There should be no relaxation in the effort already begun, to secure the services of the most skilled scientists for tracing out the cause and finding a remedy for the hog cholera; for preventing the destruction caused by the cotton worm, the curculio; the yellows in peach trees; and the pear blight.

Practical scientific dairyman should be employed, and furnished with necessary means for investigating some of the many unsolved problems in the manufacture of butter, and cheese, and sent abroad to study the modes of manufacturing such dairy products as command better prices than our own.

The possibilities of manufacturing sugar with profit from beets, sorghum, or corn, which grow in all parts of our country, are beyond a doubt; but the expense of demonstrating the outfit needed, and the process of manufacture, should not be borne by individuals, but by the general government. As soon as it becomes known what is needed, and how to do it, capital and willing hands will be ready to supply a demand that now requires over \$100,000,000 to be sent abroad annually, while labor and capital are lying idle at home. An effort to establish the cultivation of tea and coffee, is worthy of a trial.

To develop a country of so vast an extent of territory, and a climate and soil so varied as to admit of the production of almost every plant of value, is worthy of the best efforts of any government.

The lands within the jurisdiction of the United States can, and should, supply the luxuries, as well as the necessities, of all its citizens, both in peace and in war.

To carry out successfully any system or plan of protection against diseases of animals, or plants, or against insects destructive to fruits or vegetables, or to introduce new industries, we must have a well organized National Board of Agriculture. The head of the Agricultural Department, instead of being a Commissioner, should be a member of the Cabinet, with at least six assistants, one from each of the following districts, viz.:

The New England States, the Middle States, the Southern States, the great North-west, the South-west, and the Pacific Region; these assistants to be chosen by the presidents of the State agricultural societies in each of the respective districts. Each main section of climate would thus be represented, and its special interests studied. Each of these six sections should be provided with a Government experimental station in charge of the assistant member of the National Board, and supplied with a competent corps of men, whose duty it should be to test such questions as the adaptability of new industries to soil and climate, and to supply more scientific and economic methods of raising stock, grain, fruits, etc., than are at present practiced.

These assistant members of the National Board should not be chosen for political services rendered, or to be rendered, but for their fitness and devotion to the interests of agriculture.

The influence of such a board, properly organized, with earnest, competent men, supplied with the necessary means for operating, would soon be felt in every part of our country. Its effect would be to rapidly diminish our imports, by producing at home many of the articles we now purchase abroad, and to increase our exports from new

industries, and by improved production to the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars in both directions, and would return hundreds to the country for every dollar expended.

The losses to farmers, for want of correct knowledge in manufacturing butter and cheese, the treatment of animals, the application of manures and fertilizers, the management of crops, etc., can not be counted less than hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The experimental station, with monthly reports of tests and results in the different departments, would be a school, educating farmers in a science more intricate and subtle than any other—animal and vegetable life and growth—which, even if not fully comprehended, would prevent many sad mistakes. As the products of the soil, with all the disadvantages and misfortunes that have attended the farmer, have saved the Nation from bankruptcy, we believe the "aid to agriculture" suggested above would enable our Nation to retain and increase the balance of trade still more in our favor, and thus benefit the whole country, by placing its finances upon a firm basis.

JOSEPH SINTON,
P. B. CRANDALL,
E. L. B. CURTIS,
L. B. ARNOLD,
Committee.

Communications.

Shall Our Next Governor be a Farmer?

Editor Grange Visitor:

To the above question, I answer, "Yes!" I think it is the determination of the farmers and Grangers that this much-desired reform should be accomplished this coming fall.

Pomona, No. 22, in the last VISITOR, made some good suggestions. My impressions are, that if we farmers and Grangers ever obtain our just rights in the halls of legislation in this country, we shall be compelled to act independently of the two old political parties. No great reform, such as we ask for, was ever endorsed and carried forward to a perfect success by an old political organization. I would like to quote history to prove the truthfulness of that proposition. But your space is so limited that I omit it in this, claiming the right, if it should be doubted by any of your readers, to do it in some future issue of the VISITOR. Conceding this as a fact then, I think it plain what our duty is. As it says in that good book, "He that provides not for his own, especially for his own household, has divided the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Then let us say, as one man, to the machine politicians of the two old parties, that, from this hour, through all future time, our abject slavery to party has ceased to exist; that, from this time onward, we propose to provide for ourselves, and for our children after us.

I think "Pomona, No. 22," is right. This should be the talk in the Grange. If we do not, the machine politicians will crack the party whip, and tell us that to leave our party is a more heinous sin than it would be to desert our family, or to forget our God.

So I say, let us talk it over in the Grange. United, we can carry this State in the next election, with the help of the good and true men that will leave the two old parties and join with us, to accomplish this great and good reform.

Brothers, give us your views in the VISITOR. Remember that there is, today, if we are united, 73,000 voters in the National Labor party here in Michigan that are not only willing, but are anxious, that the farmers and Grangers should put a ticket in the field, nomi-

inate farmers and mechanics for all State officers, and they will endorse that ticket.

Remember, further, that we got the Fifteenth Amendment, and colored gentlemen have the right, and we shall be pleased to have them vote our ticket.

So I hope I have not offended the editor, or any brother, when I say that the National Labor party will endorse and work for the political success of the farmers and Grangers of the State of Michigan.

Once more, brothers, let us enrich the soil, thoroughly cultivate the ground, and water it anew, around the tree of Liberty, so that its branches will extend and clasp in their loving embrace all the hearts of the American people. Then will oppression of all kinds flee to the wilderness, and hide its face in shame from the eyes of the great American Nation. Then will the people see that it is for the best interest of all that this Government be placed back into the hands of the men who hold the plow. ALEA.

Scio Grange, No. 339.

The Next Governor.

LOWELL, Mich., Feb. 12th, 1880.

Bro. Jerome T. Cobb:

"Granger" thinks any farmer would do for that position, even if he is not a Granger, endorsing the name of Hon. J. T. Rich, claiming that he is in strong sympathy with us.

If there is an intelligent farmer in this State who is not a Patron, but has stood aloof since its organization, and refused, or neglected, to put his shoulder to the wheel, and whose "sympathies" for the movement have been manifested in words only, that is one good reason why we, as farmers, should not place him in the first office in the State. "Sympathy," manifested in words, may sound well to some people; but "sympathy" manifested in works, meets our demands much better.

"Granger" thinks that Bro. Woodman cannot be spared from the positions he now fills. That may be true—and it may be true that he is carrying all the honors now that one man should receive. Have we not others with us who are worthy and competent? Have we not a Trowbridge, a Childs, a Luce, a Cobb, and many others who might be named, who would fill the position with honor to us and the State? I fancy I hear a chime of voices saying, we cannot spare Bro. Cobb, who would fill his place? We would say, if we are to have a farmer Governor, let us have one whose works and record recommend him, and if our competent men are so few that one cannot be spared, without making a vacancy, we say, then make a vacancy, and let those who have given us "sympathy" in words only, come and join us, and manifest their sympathy in honest works, and help fill the places of those who have gone up higher.

We see but one objection to nominating Bro. Cobb for our next Governor, and that is, because we have not more "Hon. J. T. Rich's" in the Grange, to fill Bro. Cobb's place, instead of standing outside and looking over the fence, speaking words of "sympathy," when honest laborers are needed in the field.

If we have not members of the Order who are qualified, and will fill the position with honor to the State, and to the Grange, then we should not present the

name of a Patron. But if we have, we should prefer to trust one such to help look after our interests, than two outside, who may be waiting to see who will make the first, or highest bid.

J. C. E.

The Governor Question.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Some good points have been made in your paper upon the question of a farmer for Governor. If we have a farmer, let us have one that is tried and true, identified with our Organization and our interests, not one who would be a mere tool in the hands of the machine politicians. But one question seems to have been over-looked: How can a farmer of moderate income afford to be Governor of Michigan? True, the salary is \$1,000, but that has not been enough to pay the room rent at the hotel, of our last three Governors, to say nothing about board and traveling expenses. What for his time? Our village clergymen barely live, by the utmost economy, upon the amount named. You may say that the Governor has perquisites,—are they legal? Would you have your Governor bound to railroads by the passes he may get? Would you compel a Governor to accept fees for services rendered to doubtful parties for questionable purposes? No, of course you would not, if true Patrons. The remedy is in your hands, farmers of Michigan. Go to the polls on the day of your town election, and vote and work to secure to your Governor, whoever he may be, a higher salary—\$3,000 is asked of the voters, and the farmers can make it that. Will you? OBSERVER.

Rich for Governor.

Bro. Cobb:

As the Governor question is being discussed quite freely in the VISITOR, I wish to mix in a little, and I wish to say that the farmers of this State can have a farmer for Governor if they take the right course, which is to attend the caucuses of their party, and elect delegates to the County Convention that they can depend upon, and they will succeed. But if they depend on two or three of their party friends to fix these things, they will fail. Farmers don't attend these primary meetings, except the one just before the spring meeting, generally leaving the others to be taken care of by the two or three who are always ready and willing to attend to the business of the party in the interest of some particular candidate.

Now as the candidates mentioned in the VISITOR are mostly Republican, I wish to express my preference for Mr. Rich, though I have nothing against Bro. Woodman. Having known Mr. Rich as a good, practical farmer for a number of years, may account for my preference. He is possessed of a large stock of common sense, with as much executive ability as any merchant or lawyer, who has held the position for a number of years, and he will have a large support from all classes.

I hope he will secure the nomination, and the election, for I am satisfied that the people of this State would have no reason to regret the selection of Mr. Rich as a farmer candidate. *

—Louisiana statisticians have discovered that after a negro had passed the age of fifty he can stand twice as much heat and cold as a white man.

Communications.

Gubernatorial.

STOCKBRIDGE, Feb 23, 1880.

Bro. Cobb:

The gubernatorial question of this State seems to be the one of all others that is now agitating the minds of the people, and having passed through the fiery ordeal, as it were, and proved my fidelity to the cause in which we are engaged—that of elevating the agriculturist to an equality with those who follow the professions—I believe it no less than a duty I owe to my fellowmen to express myself upon this question. It is well known to those who read the history of this country a right, that in the make-up of our deliberative bodies and our executives, those men have always been chosen who were known to be in sympathy with that class who have been interested enough to watch the primary meetings and caucuses, and see that no man got on a delegation except he be known to favor their individual interests. The result has been what was most displeasing to us, and is yet. But who is to blame? and what is the remedy? We, as agriculturists, have the power to affect a change! Shall we do it?

I, for one, would like to see some good, reliable, capable farmer head a ticket in this State next fall. I care not what his politics is, only so he be a man of the people. I have in my mind's eye one who has been brought up on a farm from childhood; who has made farming the leading feature in his business affairs; one who has had experience in legislative business, and has become proficient in the uses of parliamentary lore, besides having an extensive knowledge in other public affairs, which eminently fit him for any position in the gift of the American people; he is a people's man, no less than in other vocations than those in agriculture, which cannot be said of every man. This man is the Hon. J. J. Woodman, of Paw Paw, VanBuren County, Michigan.

I say, Hurrah for Woodman.

Fraternally yours,

E. H. SHEPARD.

Another View of the Question.

Worthy Secretary:

As our Granger friends in the central and western portions of the State have started the Governor question, it may be that a few words from the southern part will be entitled to a place in the columns of the VISITOR.

Of all the names presented, and yet to be presented, there is no doubt that the Worthy Master of the State Grange will take the lead of all others. But is it policy for the farmers of Michigan to send Worthy Master Woodman to the front as their standard bearer for the office of Governor? Would we not receive more benefit, and would it not be more in accord with what he is justly entitled to, if the Patrons of the Fourth District would see to it that Bro. Woodman was sent to Congress? The farmer prince of parliamentarians would be a host in the House of Representatives to watch over the interests of the agricultural class, and we need a score of such men there at the present time. If we lived in the Fourth District, which we do not, we should say, Master Woodman for Representative in Congress, first, last, and all the time. If it is in order for farmers to present names for the high office of Governor of the State of Michigan, as it seems to be, we would present the name of Hon. C. G. Luce, of Branch County, a man of sterling qualities, worthy, and well qualified, an earnest Granger, a sound politician, and a friend to the laboring classes.

But here the same difficulty presents itself. Bro. Luce is eminently qualified to represent the Patrons of the Second District in Congress, and ought in all reason and justice, to take the place of the legal gent now representing us there. If the Patrons of this State have got to confine their political

aspirations to the honorable office of Governor (for it must be honorable, as it is not profitable), let us unite on some one candidate, and hold fast, lest when the race comes off, some dark horse will come to the front, and distance the field. Hence we say, Master Woodman, 1st; C. G. Luce, 2d; Alonzo Sessions, 3d; last, but not least, John T. Rich.

HAYSEED, 97.

Still Another.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

I have never yet contributed an article for the VISITOR, and should not now, but for the articles of "Granger" in the Feb. 1st number, and "H. H. Taylor," and "L. L. B.," in your last issue, neither of which meets my views. In our next campaign for State and County officers, there doubtless be in the field, Republican, Democratic, and National tickets. Now as we are called in "Granger's" article "to speak our minds or ever after hold our peace," I say that I will do all I can in my party to secure the nomination of a good representative farmer for our next Governor. If the claims of the farmer are ignored by my party, and acknowledged by "L. L. B's" or "Granger's" (for I see we do not train in the same party), I will vote for their candidate. If neither of the great political parties will nominate a farmer for Governor, then I say, put a fourth ticket in the field, with Rich, Woodman, Chamberlain, Sessions, or any other good man at the head, and we can elect the whole ticket. I say let each do all he can in the party to which he belongs, and if his party refuse to recognize the justice of the claims of the agricultural class, we are absolved from all allegiance till such claims are acknowledged. To present the names of Bros. Rich or Woodman in the VISITOR, and urge their claims as candidates, gives our enemies, in my opinion, some excuse for claiming that we are becoming demagogues and partisans. Would that all Patrons were as free from partisan feelings as I have been for the past seven years. If they were, and the fact was known to the managers of our caucuses and conventions, you would see each of the tickets headed by a farmer, with a large sprinkling of the same element clear through. The moment the farmer prefers the good of his class to the good of his party, or loves his class more than his party, that moment he is free, and the lawyers will know that their reign is ended, and their occupation gone.

Fraternally yours,

J. WARREN PEAKE.

Plenty of Good Material.

Editor Grange Visitor:

I noticed an article in the VISITOR of Feb. 1st, on the Governor question, backing up your demand that our next Governor be a farmer. The writer manifests some apprehension lest we do not get the right man. There need be no fear on that point. These late years have shown that we have plenty of farmers competent to fill any official position.

It is true, we are prohibited from discussing political matters in the Grange. That is all right; but as I look at it, a great principle in the Grange is to demand and secure representation in our legislative bodies.

I fully endorse the name of John T. Rich as farmer candidate for Governor. He is a man of sterling worth, a good, practical farmer, and will do honor to the farmer class, if placed at the head of our State government.

The name of J. J. Woodman is all sound. The honors that have been conferred upon him, and the ability he has shown in the discharge of the duties of the several offices he has held, shows that he is competent to hold any office in the State.

Let us go to work and insist that we have a farmer for Governor; and for me let the name of Rich boom for Governor, and we are all right.

A. S. KINGSBURY.
Lapeer, Mich, Feb. 22d, 1880.

The Patent Laws.

CAMBRIA, Feb. 24, 1880.

I will hazard my old hat that the man who wrote the article in the VISITOR entitled, "A Grangers' Views of U. S. Patent Laws" is a man devoted, soul and body, to the *Scientific American*. Please ask him if he does not take that paper.

There is an old saying somewhere about a man biting off his nose; and I believe a man may become so infatuated or carried away by reading dead-head advertising, and the like, that he will act contra to his own interests, and not realize the fact. Not long since, a person of good education and years of experience, said to me, "A man is just what he reads." And none of us can deny the weight of the assertion. Munn & Co. are patent law men, and no doubt, under similar circumstances, would have said very near the same as "Granger" said.

But I must close by saying, "God speed the Grange, and the VISITOR, and that Bro. Woodman is our choice for next Governor."

ANOTHER GRANGER.

Master's Annual Report to Western Pomona Grange

Brothers and Sisters:—

The State Grange at its late session made it the duty of Masters of Pomona and County Granges to make an annual report, with recommendations for the consideration of the Grange. In accordance herewith, I submit a few thoughts for your consideration. The past year has been an unusually prosperous year for the husbandman, and for the Grange. The earth has yielded a liberal harvest to reward the labors of the faithful and intelligent farmer, and the great laws of supply and demand has enabled us to obtain fair prices for our products, thus enabling us to meet the wants of family and farm, to pay off past indebtedness, or remove an incumbrance from the farm, and has placed us, as we fondly hope, on the high road to prosperity.

So also has the Grange been blessed with a liberal harvest. There has been a general awakening in the interest of the Grange, as shown by the large increase of its membership, in new material, and the return of many who had wandered from the fold, and become careless or indifferent to the great principles that underlie our Order; but who, on obtaining a better understanding of the precepts, aims, and objects of the Grange, and realizing that if the American farmer ever obtains a position to command that respect which is his due, and of which he has so long been robbed, it must come through the co-operation of those occupying the same positions, and who are now live and zealous workers in the Grange. Nor is this all. Through the awakening influence of the Lecturers who have been sent out by the National, State and Pomona Granges, many dormant Granges have been resuscitated, and have become live, working Granges. It is my opinion that what our Order most needs is more Lecturers. It is with the Grange as with other societies. For instance, if the ministers were to be withdrawn from the pulpit, religion would be at a low ebb; so if political speeches should cease to be made, and politicians cease to ply their vocations, party spirit would soon become extinct. So if the Lecturers be withdrawn from the Grange, enthusiasm would cease, and our noble Order would die. If this is true, then our duty as a Pomona Grange is plain. It becomes our imperative duty to supply this great necessity to the extent of the means in our control. I would, therefore, recommend that the Lecturer of this Pomona Grange, or some other competent Lecturer, be employed to give public lectures the coming year at such times and places within our jurisdiction as the Executive Committee shall appoint, and our means will warrant. The coming year promises to be an eventful

one, not only to the Grange, but to those outside the gate who are engaged in agriculture. The great question of transportation, or bringing the railroad companies under the operations of law as regards the prices of transportation of freight and passengers, must occupy a conspicuous place before the people at the next election. The National Grange, true to its noble principles enunciated in our Declaration of Purposes, has concluded that the time has come, when the noble stand taken by the Patrons of Illinois, that the Representatives of a free people could enact no law, in their legislative capacity, that another Legislature could not amend or repeal. In accordance with these views, through the influence of the Grange, laws were passed, regulating the price for carrying freights in State. The railroad companies denied the right, claiming, under the principle of law as expounded by the law department of old Dartmouth College, that any right guaranteed in their charter could not be abrogated. Suit was brought against the railroad companies for refusing to obey the law, and carried to the highest tribunal of the country, and decided in favor of the people. And we now demand that Congress shall pass some law that shall be fair in its operations, and that shall give to the producer a fair share of the profits of his labors. The Grange is not hostile to railroads, but, on the contrary, we regard them as the great arteries through which the life-blood of commerce flows; but we do insist that they shall not absorb all the profits of our labor. We can but rejoice that the National Grange has resolved to acknowledge the paternity of its own off-spring, and to place it in possession of its inheritance, of which it has been so long denied; and hence the National Grange has prepared and sent out petitions, to be signed and sent to Congress, modestly, but firmly, demanding that our rights be recognized; and have earnestly recommended that the farmers, and especially the Patrons, should take a more active part in the politics of our country; that they should attend the primary meetings of their several political parties, and see that no man is nominated for legislative office who has not pledged to use his vote and influence in favor of the passage of such laws as will remedy the great evils of which we complain. Our organization is not a political one, nor are we permitted to discuss political questions in the Grange. Hence the National Grange has gone as far in its recommendations as prudence or the rules of the Order will permit. Therefore it becomes our duty to accept this question as individuals, and to labor for its accomplishment in that manner that our consciences and interests dictate. The importance of the question all acknowledge, and that its accomplishment will be no easy task, confronted, as we are, by all the moneyed monopolies of Europe and America. The railroad companies first, and through them, the holders of railroad bonds, whose interest it is to have the railroad companies earn as much as possible, thereby bettering their securities. Thus we see that there is a work for each and every one of us to do. Let us meet this great question like men, taking no step backward, but compelling our Representatives to honor our petitions by their votes.

And now, Patrons, is there not a lesson to be learned from the evils of which we complain? How were they brought about? by what agency has the railroad companies been enabled to enforce their unjust demands upon us? Is it not by co-operation, by a union of interest, of action, and of purposes? And this has been accomplished through organization. If this be true, is it not equally true that if the grievances of which we complain are ever removed, it must be by co-operation. And ours is the only organization that confronts these great monopolies, and demands that the unjust burdens that we have borne so long and so patiently

shall be removed. And as there can be no great wrong perpetrated upon a free people without co-operation, so when such wrong has been perpetrated, it cannot be removed, and the rights of a people restored to them, except through the same agency.

And now, brother and sisters, would it not be well for us to study this great principle of our Order, and see if we could not be benefited by practicing it more in our avocations. Our sisters have the same interests in this and all kindred subjects at their more favored brothers. As you are denied the right to express your opinions, and demand your rights at the ballot box, yet the right of petition is yours. Use that high privilege, let your names stand side by side with your husbands' and brothers. Your influence will be felt and acknowledged. There is no law, either human or divine, that can deprive you (if you think the interests of your family or the public require it) of advising your husbands, or even your neighbors, who have been bound down by party prejudices, to break partisan ties, when the interests of himself or family can be better subserved thereby.

That the past year has brought so large a number of the young people within our gates, is very gratifying. The Grange holds out brighter hopes in the future than any other organization in our land, for young people. For I trust that in the not far distant future, places of honor and trust will be filled largely from the agricultural classes. Therefore the youth of the land, and especially of the Grange, should strive to fit themselves for the responsible positions they may be called to fill; not only by studying the best methods of producing crops, or the analysis of different soils, or their adaptation to the production of different crops; but the science of government, the principles of political economy, of finance, protection, etc. For in your hands will soon be placed the great trusts and responsibilities of the government of a free people. The perpetuation of the rights and privileges a free people derive from good government depend upon the intelligence of its subjects. So I say to the youth of the Grange, "Educate yourselves for these important trusts; for you may, and will, be called from what has heretofore been considered

* * * the ploughman's fate,
To govern men and guide the State.

The Grange affords you an opportunity for education in many ways. You can, not only benefit yourselves, but the Grange, by writing essays, and reading them before its meetings; by discussing subjects of interest to all; by selecting and reading short and instructive articles; and in many other ways. It will benefit you in after life.

Finally, I would recommend that we, one and all, study well the Declaration of Purposes of our Order, and aid in carrying them into practice. Be vigilant in the promotion of our principles, both in and out of the Grange, remembering that vigilance, eternal vigilance, is the price of liberty.

N. WHITNEY.

TRUST.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

A picture memory brings to me;
I look across the years, and see
Myself beside my mother's knee.

I feel her gentle hand restrain
My selfish moods, and know again
A child's blind sense of wrong and pain.

But wiser now, a man gray grown,
My childhood's needs are better known,
My mother's chastening love I own.

Gray grown, but in our Father's sight,
A child, still groping for the light,
To read His works and ways aright.

I bow myself beneath His hand;
That pain itself for good was planned,
I trust, but cannot understand.

I fondly dream it needs must be
That, as my mother dealt with me,
So with His children dealth He.

I wait, and trust the end will prove
That here and there, below, above,
The chastening heals, the pain is love!

Communications.

The Patent Question.

GANGES, March 2d, 1880.

A correspondent in the last VISITOR takes the ground that our patent laws are in about as perfect a shape as possible. He is willing to acknowledge the laws are often taken advantage of.

This is just the point. Our laws are certainly imperfect, when they allow, as they do, dishonest persons to fleece the public in various ways.

We predict that if the laws are not changed so as to guard more thoroughly against the abuses that now exist, the time will come, and soon, when the people will demand the abolition of the whole institution.

One outrage on the people is the system of patent extensions. The theory on which extensions are founded is that in the case of some valuable inventions, the inventor being poor, has not been able to introduce his invention immediately after obtaining his patent, so that by the time he is ready to make money, the patent is on the eve of expiring. Congress then, in the magnanimity of its heart, steps in and gives the poor man another chance by extending his monopoly for another term of years, and instances are not rare in which this extension has been repeated several times on the same invention. One case in point which occurs to me is the celebrated Woodworth planer patent, which collected a royalty from every planing mill in the country, and was extended for the third or fourth time, long after the inventor had deceased, and his immediate family had become extinct.

One of our most noted reaping machine inventors, in applying for an extension, argued that his invention had been the means of saving hundreds of millions of dollars to the country, of which vast sum, he, poor man, had received only the paltry sum of one or two millions; therefore, he prayed their honorable bodies, etc., etc.

Numerous cases of flagrant abuses of this nature may be cited, but space forbids.

During the first 75 years of our existence as a nation, some 20,000 or 25,000 patent were issued, in all. At the present time, the office is issuing that number yearly. In view of the prodigious multitude of patent claims, it is hardly possible for a farmer, of a mechanical turn of mind, to construct the various little devices for use in his house and barn, without often infringing on somebody's patent, and making himself liable accordingly.

A few years ago, the intelligent managers of the Patent Office granted Letter's patent, for a device for plowing under weeds. And what do you think the device was? Why, it consisted in attaching one end of a chain to the plow beam, and the other end to the evener, allowing the slack of the chain to draw down the weeds. We advise our fellow-plowmen to buy a right for this invention before infringing, or better try and secure a town or County, and we can then "go" for brother Grangers.

We are building an immense amount of wire fence all over the country. Do any of us know after we have built it, whether we own it, notwithstanding we know we have paid our cash for it? or shall we have to give promissory notes to some fellow who is now lying low, under the protecting shadow of our beneficent patent laws, waiting for the time when he shall think it best to make his collecting tour among the farmers.

The simple fact remains that our patent laws, as now constituted, work great injustice. What we want and what we must demand is, that our laws be so amended that while the deserving inventor shall be protected in gaining a reasonable compensation for the products of his brain, the public shall be guaranteed the right to use what they buy and pay for.

E. HAWLEY.

Correspondence.

An Interesting Meeting.

BANGOR, Feb. 28th, '80.

Worthy Bro. Cobb:

I want to tell you and our Michigan Patrons of the good time the Patrons of Van Buren Co. enjoyed at their Co. Grange, held at Paw Paw, the 26th inst.

From 10 A. M. to 2 P. M. a business session was held, also dinner served at noon, and at two o'clock all repaired, with their friends, to the Opera House, where was served a feast of music and of reason. The music was furnished by the choir of Paw Paw, and was excellent, needing to be heard to be appreciated,—and the reason was furnished in the opening remarks by our Master, D. Woodman, and an address by Bro. J. J. Woodman.

He described the degraded condition of the agricultural classes of the Old World, comparing them with those of the New, showing reasons why the foreign farmers are degraded, simply because they allow themselves to be controlled by the monied classes. He warned the American farmers against the same tendency to allow others to control public affairs. He related the causes that led to the founding of the Grange, with the object of its organization; what it had done in the past, and its work for the future. He agitated the transportation question, the plaster ring, and patent right law, showing the vast power and influence of the Grange. Comment on the address is unnecessary, for you all know Bro. Woodman, and I trust you have all heard him speak. Suffice it to say that for two hours he secured the undivided attention of the densely crowded Opera House.

All were convinced—many not within the gates went away feeling that the Grange was not so bad after all.

Later, nine candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the fifth degree, making a total membership of 152.

It was decided to hold the next meeting, May 20th, at Waverly, holding an open session, with the following program: "Table and Toilet," Mrs. Sykes and Mrs. D. Woodman; "How Shall we Improve and Ornament our Highways?" J. C. Gould, A. Wilmot, F. Goss, and Bro. Shepard, of Hartford; "Profits of Farm, Factory, and Profession," A. C. Glidden and C. B. Charles; "Plans for a Barn, Mechanically and Financially Considered," A. W. Hayden and James Robertson; "Where, and How, Shall we Educate our Girls?" Essays, Issie Harrison, Mrs. A. W. Hayden.

The evening was devoted, principally, to the discussion of the question, "Shall Higher Education be Supported by Public Funds?" This spirited discussion was continued until late, and could you have been present, you would have concluded that the Grange is anything but dormant.

Grange closed at 11 P. M., those living at a distance enjoying the hospitality of Paw Paw Patrons.

All voted it a good time, with renewed vigor for future Grange work.

Yours fraternally,

C. B. CHARLES, Sec.

He Prizes the Visitor.

GRAFTON, Feb. 23d, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Please find enclosed stamps for a copy of your highly prized paper, the GRANGE VISITOR, which you will send to Geo. M. Howard, of Athens, Windham Co., Vermont, commencing with March 1st.

We think your paper grows better, and if all Patrons would take, and read it, we should not hear of so many dormant Granges. I am sorry we do not have a similar paper for Vermont.

By request, please have your picture in the VISITOR, and oblige Vermonters, &c. Your friend,

S. A. WRIGHT.

A Prosperous Grange.

FOWLER, Mich., Feb. 27th, '80.

J. T. Cobb:

Please say to the Patrons and readers of the VISITOR, that Dallas Grange, No. 505, is not only in good working order, but I am told, by brothers who have been with the Grange since it was first organized (I having joined lately), that our Grange is now in as prosperous a condition, or perhaps more so, than at any time since its organization.

A large part of the interest now manifested is due to the untiring efforts of our present Worthy Master, Horace D. Welling, who, by his energy and ability, as well as his close application to the duties of his office, has rendered our meetings pleasant, as well as profitable.

Our meetings are held once a week, we could not think of holding them farther apart. We are now having a series of discussions on farming, interspersed with readings, essays, etc.

On the 19th inst., our Grange gave a St. Valentine's ball, which was a grand success.

Some new members have lately joined and many delinquent members are coming back into the Grange.

Brothers and sisters of the Order, remember the success or failure of the Grange, in a great measure, depends upon us. It will not do for any brother or sister to fold his, or her, hands and wait for Bro. A. or B. to do the work. Every brother should be on deck, ready to spring into the rigging at the word of the Master. But what could the Master do, in case of a storm, if the crew were in the cabin asleep?

Brothers, let us not go grovelling along with the earth worms, but keep the principles of the Order, as a beacon light before us.

If those principles are kept in view, we are sure to sail our craft successfully over the rocks and shoals; but if the higher and nobler aims of the Order are lost sight of, our boat is wrecked, and we are lost.

Having the best interests of the Order at heart, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
MYRON BROWN.

Otsego Grange, No. 364.

OTSEGO, Allegan Co., Mich. }
February 25th, 1880. }

Editor Grange Visitor:

I have the pleasure of reporting to you that Otsego Grange, No. 364, of Michigan, wears now the aspect of coming prosperity. At our regular meeting, on the 24th of February, we carried a motion to hold two regular meetings each month. We initiated one person, and received applications from three more for membership. During this month we have taken a suit out of Court that was pending between two brothers, and brought it before the Executive Committee. The Committee thought best to exclude attorneys from participation in the trial before them. I think this is right, and in accordance with the spirit of the Order. Differences among the brethren should be settled among themselves, the Executive Committee, or Grange, acting as a Court of Equity.

This can be made one of the great benefits of the Order. Belligerent brothers ought always to be urged by their friends, in the Grange, to seek this method for the settlement of their difficulties. I hope that next month I may have the gratification of telling you that our Grange is going to build a hall of its own.

Fraternally yours,
MILTON CHASE,
Lecturer of Grange No. 364.

His Opinion of the Visitor.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I am glad to be able to send you subscribers to the VISITOR at any time. It is gaining friends both in and out of the Grange. I feel it is a paper that merits the best wishes and help of all farmers. If I were able I would take

a number of copies for distribution. As it is, I have to take my chances in reading it. For instance, father came in this morning, and found our VISITOR had come, started home, and came back and said, "If you can spare the VISITOR this evening, I would like to have it." As he is 74 years old, and says it is the best paper of the four I take, I let him have it. All speak highly of it.

Fraternally yours,

R. E. PERRY,
Secretary Cambria Grange, No. 74.

A Revival Grange Meeting.

CLARKSTON, Feb. 21st, 1880.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

I want to give you an account of the meeting we had here on Feb. 17th. Our Grange came to the conclusion that we must do something to arouse an interest in regard to the Grange—for people had begun to think the Grange movement was dying out, and they had good reason to think so, for the two Granges nearest to us have ceased to work, and another has had so many ups and downs that we hardly know whether it is alive or not.

We asked Bro. Woodman to come here and help us, which he did, on the day above mentioned, although at great inconvenience to himself.

We had a meeting in the afternoon for members of the Order, which was attended by a large number of Patrons from all over the County. We were much surprised to find Bro. Whitney with us, and you may be sure that we made good use of him.

We had a public meeting in the evening, which was attended by a large number of farmers, beside many from the village.

Bro. Woodman gave us what he called a talk, occupying about two hours, and Bro. Whitney gave us a short address. A more attentive audience I never saw. By the favorable comments I have heard, the address made a very good impression, and a person that was not convinced by Bro. Woodman's arguments, that the Grange is a necessity, is not worth laboring with. I think Bro. Woodman's visit will be of great good to us, for already I hear of some that are going to join our Grange, and we have reason to think we shall soon have better days.

Bro. Woodman and Whitney were obliged to take the midnight train, to reach Charlotte the next day.

Fraternally yours,
E. FOSTER,
Sec'y Grange No. 275.

Livingston Co. Council.

HOWELL, Feb. 23d, 1880.

Brother Cobb:

Thinking that it might be of interest to some of the readers of the VISITOR to know that the Livingston Co. Council still exists and is doing a thriving business, with Bro. W. K. Sexton as our purchasing agent, I will give you a brief sketch of our last annual meeting held at Howell Grange hall Feb. 3. Although the weather was cold, and the roads bad we had a good house and meeting. After partaking of a sumptuous dinner and listening to the report of the visiting committee, whose duty it is to visit the different Granges of the County, the Council proceeded to elect the following officers for the ensuing year: Master, A. E. Cole, Conway Grange; Overseer, J. B. Brown, Oak Grove Grange; Steward, W. K. Sexton, Howell Grange; Assts., A. M. Wells and wife, Oak Grove Grange; Chaplain, S. Bidwell, Brighton Grange; Treasurer, J. S. Briggs, West Handy Grange; Lecturer, N. J. Holt, Howell Grange; Gate Keeper, W. K. Cole, Howell Grange; Purchasing Agent, W. K. Sexton, Howell Grange. After disposing of business on hand, the Council adjourned to meet Saturday, March 6, at 10 o'clock A. M. to discuss the wool question, and listen to an address from the Hon. Thos. F. Moore, of Adrian. A cordial invitation is extended to all Patrons.

N. J. HOLT, Sec'y.

Strong in Grange Principles.

MARLETTE, Mich., Feb. 28th, '80.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

It is sometime since I have written you anything concerning Grange No. 549. You will see by our quarterly reports that we are not very strong in numbers, but I am happy to tell you that we are strong in Grange principles. We aim to make the Grange a success, socially as well as financially, and I think we have succeeded.

On the evening of the 2d inst., Bro. C. L. Whitney installed our officers, and addressed us on the work of the Order, and what it has accomplished in the past. He did the members much good, and, by the appearance of things, opened the eyes of some outside the Order. We have received five applications for membership since his visit, and more are coming. Let them come, there is room.

Last evening we met at the school-house, where we hold our meetings, for I am sorry to say, we have no hall of our own, and partook of a supper not easily surpassed, either in quantity or quality. After supper, we listened to a short but interesting address from D. W. Hammond, editor of the Marlette Index. Although not a member of our Order, his speech was to the point, and was well received by all.

He was followed by Bro. R. A. Wilson, Past Master of this Grange, but now Master of Chesaning Grange, No. 464. Last, but not least, was the presentation of a valuable gold pen, in behalf of the Grange, by Bro. S. G. Wilson, to the Secretary, as a token of their appreciation of his services.

The pen was obtained through our State Agents at Detroit, Geo. W. Hill, & Co. I would say, for the benefit of all concerned, that we have done considerable business, in purchasing goods, through our State Agency, with perfect satisfaction to all concerned. Give it a trial, and you will be satisfied.

The VISITOR is taken by every family represented in our Grange. Wishing it, and Bro. Cobb success, I am,

Fraternally yours,
G. W. RUDD,
Sec'y Montgomery Gr., No. 549.

Grange Matters in Tuscola County.

WHITNEY GRANGE, No. 573, }
TUSCOLA, Feb. 28th, '80. }

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

One would think, from looking over the VISITOR, that there was no interest taken in Grange matters in Tuscola County.

We have five working Granges in this District, but no District Grange.

I sent a communication to the VISITOR a year ago, and have been waiting for some one else, who is better qualified, to do likewise; but failing to hear from them, I resolved to try again.

Whitney Grange, No. 513, is on the road to prosperity. The members have all gone to work with a determination to make the Grange a success, and are reaping their reward. At almost every meeting, we receive new applications for membership. We have admitted ten new members, and five old members have been reinstated, since the election of the new officers, and there are more to follow. We have now 60 active, go-ahead members. The meetings are well attended, by both old and young. The brothers discuss questions of interest, while the sisters read instructive items. We have a paper, edited by Sisters Clara A. Rice and Mary Davis, which is very interesting and instructive.

I can say, for one, that the Grange has outgrown my expectations. I was one of the first who put their names down as pioneer Grangers, in Tuscola County, July 24th, 1874, and there are ten of us who have stuck to the principles of the Order, and I guess we always shall. Yours fraternally,

EDGAR A. FOSTER,
Tuscola, Mich.

THE proper form for a will nowadays will read: "To the respective attorneys of my children, I give my entire estate."

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, MAR. 15, 1880.

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.

POSTAGE STAMPS of higher value than three cents will be returned to the sender.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.

Upon the Governor question there seems to be no abatement of interest; and, as the season advances, and the great campaign of the year opens, and men politically begin to wax warm, it is easy to see that the talk will be still more earnest and determined.

Well, that is all in order, and we hope that, for once, the farmers will not be behind in urging their pet opinions.

If they only talk well and persistently, and act unitedly, they will certainly carry their point. But that is just what they are sure not to do,—and so we shall be satisfied if each one insists, within the sphere of his own party, that a farmer candidate shall be placed at the head of the ticket. And we ask that every farmer shall make this a matter of personal interest, and work for this object with earnestness and determination.

We are not so very tenacious as to the man, but we are determined as to the general proposition. We want it distinctly understood that no Detroit lawyer, or for that matter, any other locality, can have the support of the farmers of the State for the office of Governor in Nov., 1880.

The tone of the letters which we receive, clearly indicates that no party can depend fully on the support of all its members, if it shall disregard this demand for a candidate for Governor from the agricultural class. We are glad to see this. We believe it promises well, not only for the intelligent, independent action of farmers, but it augurs well for the future of the country.

Independent political action means broader views and greater intelligence on the part of the voter, and as a result, more honesty and a better government.

Bro. farmers, do not forget that our Order has been making, for the last ten years, an earnest, determined effort to elevate our class; and when we are satisfied that rights of any sort properly and justly belong to us, shall we not take our rank, place, and position sooner, by promptly and firmly demanding them, than by waiting for an invitation from those who have held positions that, in some instances at least, they seemed to think, belonged to them?

Attend the primary meetings of your respective parties when the time comes, and do your whole duty—and in the mean time, do not forget, at all suitable times and places, to call the attention of your fellow farmers to these facts: First, that, though we elect a Governor every two years, and have since Michigan became a

State, more than 40 years ago, yet in that time but one farmer has been elected to that office. Secondly, Agriculture is the leading interest of the people of our State, and far more important than any other.

These facts conceded, does it not follow that the Executive of the State should, for a fair proportion of the time, come from the class representing this most important interest.

Some say, it don't make any difference—what we want is a good man. Well, as long as we farmers think it *does* make a difference, and are to show that the office belongs to us as a matter of right, and are able to present the names of farmers of eminent ability and special fitness for the position, we say that it will make a difference in the footing, when the votes are counted, if our claims are not regarded.

The world is full of selfishness, individual and collective, and we deem this a fit time to urge the class to which we belong to stand up for their rights, and vindicate their claims by such independent political action, as shall convince the political managers that we mean what we say.

GRANGE AGENCIES.

In the last number of the *Visitor*, we made some reference to the good work done by some of the co-operative stores, established and run by the Order.

Now to the enterprising, go-ahead Patron, who desires to reap some pecuniary, as well as social and educational advantages, from their connection with the Order, we have just this to say: We have on the eighth page of the *Visitor* three advertisements inserted and kept standing, for the express purpose of informing these very Patrons where they can buy what they may chance to want at a reasonable price.

Many of our people have bought goods of Montgomery, Ward & Co., for years, and have been well satisfied. While others have shipped their produce to Thomas Mason, of Chicago, and saved money by so doing. Then again, those living East can avail themselves of the Detroit agency, Geo. W. Hill & Co., whose work for the Order has, so far as we have heard, given entire satisfaction.

No one need ask any questions as to the responsibility of these firms. It is a settled fact that each and all of them will deal fairly by their customers, and hold themselves ready to correct any mistakes that, in the course of business, may be made.

While we are very well satisfied with the progress made by the farmers of the country within the last ten years, and are proud of the fact that our class is freely accorded a more advanced position everywhere, we are free to say that our patience is well nigh exhausted with those growlers who insist that the Grange don't do them any good. To these, and to all others, we say, if you have any sociability in your natures, attend the meetings of the Grange, and go determined to have a good time.

If you desire, in addition to this, to be benefitted by the educational advantages which this organization was intended, and does bring to you, fail not to attend the meetings of the Grange, and take part in the discussions. Tell your fellow members "what you know about farming," and receive in return some useful hints from those whose observation has been more exact than your own.

And to those whose sole object and purpose in joining the Grange was to get more money out of it than he put in, we repeat what has been said many times before: Don't foolishly suppose the Grange has undertaken to take care of you, except you co-operate with it, and do something yourself. The Grange organization has provided means by which you can derive pecuniary advantages and benefits, and save money. Now use them, and let us hear no more complaining.

Send to Montgomery, Ward & Co.; or Thomas Mason, of Chicago; or to Geo. W. Hill & Co., of Detroit, and you will be treated fairly, honorably, and save money, by belonging to the Order.

If you don't do this, be consistent, and not charge your own neglect to the Order of P. of H.

PETITIONS.

Within the last six weeks, quite a number of petitions to Congress have been returned to this office, after having been signed. This is not as was intended. Send all petitions to the Member of Congress from your District, and if you send a letter along with the petition, you can add much to its value.

Tell law-makers what we want, and why—and the chances that a reasonable demand, persistently pressed upon their attention, will ultimately be granted, is vastly better than to leave every thing to take care of itself.

Don't send any more petitions to Congress to this office.

We have quite a lengthy and well-written communication from "Equality," in reply to "Excelsior," which we decline to print, as it seems to us not profitable to allow these writers to continue hitting each other through this paper.

The points in controversy are not of such general interest as to justify the use of our space in this way.—Ed.

We have had several books of the *Visitor* of 1878 and 1879, bound for those who have supplied us with missing Nos. We have full volumes for these two years, except June 15th and July 1st, 1878. Can any one supply us with these two Nos.?

Grange No. 459.

DEWITT, Feb. 28th, 1880.

Brother Cobb:

Our Grange is in a prosperous condition, with about 95 members, and on the increase. The meetings are held every two weeks, in the afternoon and evening alternately.

At a special meeting, Jan. 31st, a full corps of officers were installed—Master, Robert G. Mason; Secretary, Wm. Collins. Fraternally yours,

WM. A. BARNES.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW

By-Laws of Mich. State Grange.

The By-Laws of the State Grange were revised by that body at its late session, and will be found in the published Proceedings. They have also been published in pamphlet form, and sent out to the Masters of Subordinate Granges. These By-Laws are now in force, and will be found to be a great improvement upon those which were previously in use.

The State Grange also revised the By-Laws recommended for Subordinate and Pomona Granges, so as to make them conform to the laws of the State and National Granges.

Subordinate and Pomona Granges should either adopt this revised code, or so amend those now in force as to make them harmonize with the By-Laws of the State Grange.

Code for Trials of Offenses.

The committee appointed by the State Grange, consisting of the Master, Secretary, and Lecturer, to prepare a code of laws, for the trial of offenses, by Subordinate Granges, have performed that duty, and the code will appear in the next number of this paper. It will also be printed in pamphlet form and will be sent to the Masters of Subordinate Granges. These rules will be in force from and after their publication, and should be preserved with the By-Laws of each Subordinate Grange.

Error in State Grange Proceedings.

I discover that my name appears in the Proceedings of the State Grange, as Chairman of the Committee on the Condition of American Agriculture. This is an error. The able Chairman of that Committee was Bro. W. W. Lang, of Texas. I was a member of that Committee, but not its Chairman, and am unwilling to wear borrowed honors. [See page 52, Proceedings N. G.]

"LeDuc, Commissioner of the Agricultural Department, has written a letter in which he announces that 'the Department wants an opportunity.' This is exactly what the country is afraid of. Given 'an opportunity,' there is no telling what shines the blindest thing might cut up."—*Post and Tribune*.

Yes, the *Post and Tribune* is correct in its conclusions. "There is no telling" what the Agricultural Department at Washington, and the Agricultural College in this State, might accomplish for the advancement of Agriculture, if they were only "given an opportunity." Since the Grange has taken steps to popularize these institutions with the farmers of the country, and to make the Agricultural Department at Washington serve the interests of Agriculture, instead of politicians, they have both "cut up shines," which begin to make "afraid" some whose interests are not identified with the increasing prosperity and accumulating knowledge of farmers, which is being, in some degree, augmented by these institutions.

With the very limited "opportunity" given "Commissioner LeDuc," he has made valuable experiments in the manufacture of sugar from saccharine plants, which bid fair to create a new departure in Agriculture, and revolutionize sugar-making in this country, contributing not only to the prosperity of farmers, but adding material wealth to the Nation.

He is now prosecuting other experiments with favorable results, and only "an opportunity" is required to develop other interests which cannot fail to not only benefit Agriculture, but the whole country. Abolish the picayune policy, which has been practiced towards the Agricultural Department by Congress, and our Agricultural College by our State Legislature, and give them means in some degree commensurate with the importance of the great inter-

est which they represent; and the "shine they will cut up" in developing the great principles of theoretic, scientific, and practical Agriculture, and in graduating men and women for the profession of Agriculture, will astonish if not make "afraid" those who claim that farmers should "be underlings."

How to Elect a Governor.

LANSING, March 4th, '80.

Editor Grange Visitor:

As your columns are still booming for a farmer Governor, and as you say that "we have no exact program to present and recommend, as the sure way to secure the election of a farmer for Governor," permit me to give a few items as to the present prospect—and, while I am not partisan, I am political.

Pomona, No. 22, thinks that we should bring this matter up in our halls, and "resolve, re-resolve," and—then we shall be beaten, all the same.

Did not the State Grange, in answer to Bingham's address, last December, declare for a farmer for Governor? Now, let us see how the Republican politicians have met this. It is a well known maxim of politicians that the "ins" want to stay in, and the "outs" want to get in.

When a party considers that a nomination is equivalent to an election, then the strife commences for a nomination—and the Republicans do not lack for aspirants. But luckily for the people, the Republican party is divided into two factions, known here as the Mayflowers and the Stalwarts. The former are urging Wm. McCreery for Governor, and hope to send Bagley to the United States Senate;—while the latter are for T. W. Palmer for Governor, and are thus hoping that, if elected, he would have a good chance as Senator. But during the last session of the Legislature it was thought by some that then would be a good time to fix up a slate, and the friends of J. T. Rich pledged themselves to urge him as one who would sacrifice all personal affairs, in serving the people, at \$1,000 per year; and as he has inherited a farm, of course we would have a farmer Governor!

Still, there is another patriot in the west who would consent to be laid upon the altar of our State, as said altar is now well upholstered, and in a fine temple. He is a "Granger," and is known here as "Alphabet Holden."

How do these men suit? Here is a goodly number to choose from, but if we should not choose any of these, who then? Within a few weeks, we must make our choice in one of the two parties that will put up candidates.

My plan is, to turn out at the Township and County Conventions. See that our party is represented by delegates who will not be bought up by the rings. If we have a man that we think will be a Governor of the State of Michigan, let us see that his name is on the head of our State ticket.

In the *Visitor* of Feb. 1st, we had a little "taffy" served up to us by a "Granger." It don't taste good—there is too much of the dark horse in that. There are thousands of "laborers" that are now ready to go to the ballot box with the Grange candidate; and the party that has such a name on it will win, no matter which party name the ticket bears.

It is time for us to hoist our colors. If we want Master Woodman for Governor or say so to our members, to our neighbors, to the editors. Set the name booming all over the State. Let Don Henderson hear the name of our man wherever he goes in the interests of Palmer. Sound our man through the State Capitol, and the rings will never dare to push against the horny-handed Granger. They are quick to feel the wind from the rural districts, and we shall have all of these heroes of State pap putting on rubber boots and entering swamp-land farms!

Hurrah for the Grange Ticket!

C. L. TICIAN.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

Pickings by the Way—No. 5.

EATON COUNTY.

At 1 P. M. we met a large public audience, at the public hall. Bro. Woodman addressed them for an hour, and then the Patrons all repaired to the Grange hall, when our labor began, and at 6:30 P. M. was concluded—instituting Eaton County Pomona Grange, with 74 members, with the following officers, duly elected and installed:

- Master—B. E. Benedict.
- Overseer—James Murray.
- Lecturer—H. Shipman.
- Steward—G. W. Harmon.
- Ass't Steward—S. L. Bentley.
- Chaplain—Esek. Pray.
- Treas.—J. B. Nichols.
- Sec.—J. Shaw.
- Gate-keeper—G. W. Lankton.
- Ceres—Harriet Eddy.
- Pomona—Sister E. Pray.
- Flora—Sarah Town.
- Lady Ass't Steward—Sarah E. Benedict.

Ex. Com.—Bros. S. W. Ewing, L. M. Squires, G. T. Dwinell, and H. B. Field.

Greater harmony and pleasantness we have seldom seen than at this Pomona Grange organization.

We prophecy work and good results as the outgrowth of this meeting and organization.

After the meeting, we accompanied Bro. Squires home, to Vermontville, and were well entertained at his house. Bro. Squires has some fine horses, which he showed us. He has bred them himself, from stock he got in the South.

A Grange meeting was held in the hall, which we attended. Bro. Woodman spoke, in answer to inquiries regarding the incorporation of Granges, showing it to be for the interest and protection of Granges and their members to incorporate.

All took dinner at the hotel near by, after which Bro. Woodman made a public address, at the public hall, to a large and attentive audience. While we went home, having been absent three weeks.

As a result of a part of our work in Oakland County, Ortonville Grange, No. 385, has resumed work, with Bro. E. F. Canidy as Master elect, and Alonzo Flogler as Secretary elect. We welcome all such back into the ranks. More may come as they will. Many will come back in a short time. "Labor and wait," should be the motto of every true Patron.

OTTAWA COUNTY.

On the 5th, we paid the officers of Spring Lake Grange, No. 201, a visit, and arranged for a public meeting on the 13th inst. Then we went to Peach Plains, across Grand River, and arranged for a meeting there, which, we hope, will result in a new Grange.

On the 6th, we stepped off the train at Berlin, and at 10 A. M. found our way to the hall of Ottawa Grange, No. 30. This Grange has an excellent place of meeting, and one of the halls open upon the fair grounds of the Ottawa County Agricultural Society. Good stalls for teams are close at hand. A good turn-out of Patrons were present when Worthy Master Kellogg's gavel called to order and to labor. The 1st and 2d degrees were conferred upon six candidates, and we learned that a class of 12 were to take the 3d and 4th degrees at the next meeting, the 3d Thursday of the present month. The degrees were well conferred. Those officers who had learned their charges did much better than those who had to read from a book. As a whole, the work was well done, yet there were some

things to criticise. The music showed want of practice, the instrument behaved badly, and the Grange needs to provide itself with stands for its officers, which, for the lady officers, should be decorated with grain, fruits, and flowers. The Grange also needs the Master's working tools. The instruction and work of the Master was excellent. Of those officers filling the places of those absent, we have no word of censure, but think they did quite well, as they had had no chance to prepare their work.

The degree work over, lunch was taken, and when all had satisfied their appetites, work was resumed. The first was a poem by Bro. Kelly upon the life and character of the late Stephen Hall, a charter member of this Grange. The Worthy Lecturer, C. W. Wild, then announced the topic for discussion, "How Can the Women Lesson the Labors of the Household?" An animated discussion followed for two hours, in which many good points were made, and many ways shown how much of the labor of the household could be lessened. Topics were announced for the next meeting, and the Grange closed in form, and the members went home pleased that they had a good Grange to attend.

Proceedings of the National Grange.

The Proceedings of the National Grange have been distributed among the Granges of the State, and to that volume we would call attention. It is worth to the Order much more than the whole expense of the meeting of the National Grange—for in it is a library of information, which should, from time to time, be placed before the Grange. Every Subordinate Grange in our State would be bettered by having the addresses and reports of that body (the N. G.) read before them. Why not have a small portion read at each meeting, until the whole has been presented. We especially mention the address of our Rev. Bro. Thos. K. Beecher,—also the annual address of the Worthy Lecturer, Bro. Mortimer Whitehead, also that of the Master, besides the reports of the important committees reporting.

Many Patrons have an idea that the Proceedings, and the like, sent to the Master or Secretary of the Grange belong to them, this is not so. These Proceedings are the property of the Grange, and should be in the hall at every meeting, at hand for reference by any who should wish to refer to them. The same is also true of the Proceedings of the State Grange; the Digest, By-Laws, Rituals, are not the property of individuals, but of the Grange, and all should carefully preserve and have at hand these books, ready for use or consultation, and the officer having them in charge is responsible for their safe keeping. Would it not be well for every Grange to have a suitable place for such books, with lock and key, to be opened only when proper? Would it not be well for every Grange to inquire as to where their books, pamphlets, etc., of this nature, are, and get them together, and then provide a place for their safe keeping?

The By-Laws are now out, and the Code of Rules for Grange Trials will be ready very soon. Each Grange should secure copies at once, and keep enough to always be sure of some at hand, for reference when needed.

With the revised forms of By-Laws recommended for Subordinate and Pomona Granges in hand, would it not be well to put the matter in the hands of competent Committees to review and fill the blanks and make their laws conform to State and National Grange Laws?

Work! work! work! is the order from every quarter, and we should, by our action, everywhere respond and work in earnest, with our machinery

perfected, and made to conform to the models given us.

Become familiar with your laws and your Ritual, and then work—remember, Onward! still Onward! is the watchword.

Nuts to Crack.

While in our Grange field a few weeks since, we found a Patron (so-called) too poor to pay 50 cents a year for the VISITOR—to keep informed—yet rich enough to pay \$8 royalty on the patent slide gate—which reading the VISITOR would have saved him. He thought the Grange and its little paper did not amount to much—he has changed his mind.

This week we have purchased a No. 3 sewing machine, with all the attachments and accompaniments, for \$17, through Grange sources, when the agent, who lives by the middleman's profit, says that he "can't sell, nor can it be bought, for less than \$40."

Yet some say that the Grange don't amount to much. Before the Grange came, the price of this machine was \$85.

Patronize Our Agents.

A card is just at hand from a brother in Clinton County, who had just been to Detroit and bought a large bill of groceries of Geo. W. Hill & Co. He says: "I find there is a great saving by doing so. This is one of the things that we learn in the Grange—how and where to buy."

By patronizing our agents, enough may be saved each month to pay one's dues to a Grange for a year—but those who don't use these Agencies of the Order "don't see as they make anything by being Patrons." Oh, how shiftless!

A Protest.

PONTIAC, Feb'y 23d, 1880.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

A short time ago a man came to me representing Day & Taylor, saying that Patrons generally desired that their plaster should be placed in the hands of the trade, and saying one of our dealers had been recommended as the proper man. I went to town with him, and saw several Patrons, and stated my objections, I thought, very fully, to the plan proposed, and fearing all was not correct, wrote to Messrs. Day & Taylor for an explanation. They confirmed the agent's statement, in that he was their agent. I had just unloaded a car of 12 tons, and paid \$30.40 freight, and said to Mr. Taylor that it was too much. He answers, "Yes, you have paid \$4 more than the M. M. Co. will allow them to charge, and Day & Taylor would correct it." I mentioned this matter to D. & T., but they said it was all right now, making the plaster cost 33¢ cents per ton more than their agent represented.

I learn that at the meeting at Clarkston, 17 inst., I was reported as favoring the plan above stated, for handling the Patrons' plaster.

I told Mr. Taylor repeatedly that I believed it a very unwise move, intended to drift us back into the old habit, and give us into the hands of our enemies, thereby losing all the advantages we have gained by breaking up the combination.

Meeting Bro. Beadford, formerly Secretary of our Grange, who, after hearing the plan, and my objection, fully coincided with my view. Mr. Taylor thereupon said he would not look any further for Mr. Dewey, and would carry out my plan, viz: ship it direct to Patrons in bags, and on its arrival, the consignee could unload it into the depot, where it could remain a reasonable time without cost, and Patrons to be notified to take it away. Our courteous Freight Agent here unhesitatingly granted that privilege.

Mr. Taylor afterwards met several Patrons who had been greatly annoyed by getting their plaster when it was very difficult to get it home, who favored D. & T.'s plan, and thereupon

he sold Mr. Dewey four cars, to be delivered at different points, that at Pontiac, and some other points, at 33¢ cents per ton less than it had cost me, and I believe others also.

I have no wish to set up my opinions against the combined wisdom of the officers of the State Grange, but if Messrs. Day & Taylor have made this move without consulting with above officers, I am bound to enter my protest.

Truly yours,
EDWIN PHELPS.

Correspondence.

Meeting of Oakland Pomona Grange.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Oakland County Pomona Grange met with White Lake Grange, No. 253, on February 25th. Had a very pleasant time, with about 100 present. Subject, discussed for the good of the Order. Essays read by Mrs. A. Sanbro and Mrs. Wm. Satterly. Pomona Scrapbag, read by Mrs. Chas. Wager, was highly entertaining and instructive.

Our Grange is prospering, new members coming in, and others who have been sitting outside in sackcloth and ashes, have returned to their first love, desiring to reap their share of the benefits which flow from our Order, and many are inquiring, if there are not more laborers wanted in the field. Outsiders see that we are deriving some benefit from this organization. Some say there is no financial profit to be derived from it. Are we placed here for no other purpose than to improve our financial condition? If so, then we are of all men most miserable. Nay, but we can, by properly improving the opportunities given us in the Grange, prove to the world that we are not drones in the great human hive. Each of us have something to do while here.

Let us so live, that when we are called upon to lay down our implements on earth, we may have the assurance, that we have not lived in vain.

KATE.

White Lake, March 5th, 1880.

Sound Grange Doctrine and Advice.

J. T. Cobb:

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted by Orion Grange, and by the Detroit and Bay City Council of P. of H., March 2d, 1880:

WHEREAS, The Ohio Plaster Co., having withdrawn their plaster from the Michigan market, and the Alabama Plaster Company having raised the price of their plaster from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per ton, on cars at Bay City, and the Grand Rapids Company having reduced the price of their plaster to \$1.00 per ton, free on board cars; and

WHEREAS, It appears that this state of facts points unmistakably to a continued and determined effort on the part of the Grand Rapids Plaster Co. to break down the Grandville Plaster Company of Day & Taylor; and

WHEREAS, Day & Taylor commenced the manufacture of Plaster under the auspices of the Executive Committee of the State Grange of P. of H., at a time when the attempt was made to force the farmers to pay for this same Grand Rapids Plaster four times as much as they now offer it for, and have succeeded in furnishing to farmers a good quality of well seasoned, finely ground plaster, at the low price of \$1.50 per ton; therefore,

Resolved, That we deem it not only the duty of every farmer belonging to the Grange, but both the duty and true policy of every farmer outside the Grange, to see to it, that the Grandville Plaster Company is not broken down by this combination, which is evidently aiming to monopolize the entire plaster trade of the State, that it may again exact of farmers the old exorbitant price.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to every farmer in the State, to investigate thoroughly the efforts being made to reinstate this plaster ring, and if the purchase of their plaster the present spring from the Grand Rapids Company does not lead directly to this result, and consider whether it is not the only sure way of preventing such a result, to sustain the action of the State Grange, by using the Grandville plaster, which is made under the State contract of \$1.50 per ton.

HIRAM ANDREWS,
Orion, Mich. Sec'y of Council.

Program of Macon Grange.

April 2d, 1:30 o'clock, P. M.—Regular order of business; song by the choir; Preparing Ground for Oats, A. A. Lewis; the Model Farmer, W. H. Mather. recess. Opening song, B. S. Souder; select reading, Mrs. Geo. Howell; Essay, M. J. Martin; Economy in Household Labors, Mrs. W. H. Osborn; Stock Running at Large, discussion, lead by A. Easlick.

April 16th, 7 o'clock, P. M.—Regular order of business; song by the choir; Sorghum and its Culture, by Milan Sages; Relation of Crops, John Boyd. recess. Opening song, J. Hunter and H. D. Baker; select reading, Miss Maggie Boyd; Essay on Butter Making, Mrs. J. W. Baker, criticised by Sisters L. Mead, L. Osgood, and R. Clarkson. The Best Variety of Corn and its Cultivation, R. Clarkson, M. Yates, A. Russell, N. Skinner, and J. W. Osborn.

Notice of Meetings.

PLEASANT, March 1st, 1880.

Dear Sir: Kent County Grange will hold a meeting at the hall of Paris Grange, No. 19, on March 24th, at 10 o'clock A. M. A program has been made out containing topics of interest, and they are assigned to the following members: Bro. Edmund Manly, of Walker; Sister Kate Meech, of Paris; Sister Mary Holt, of Ada; Bro. M. P. Whiting, of Byron; Bro. E. G. D. Holden, Grand Rapids; Bro. Edmund Styles, Paris; Sister Lydia Styles, Paris. Yours fraternally,
JOHN PRESTON, Lec.

The next meeting of the Clinton Co. Pomona Grange will be held at Essex Grange Hall, Wednesday, March 24th, at 1 o'clock, P. M. The following resolution will be discussed:

Resolved, That our Board of Supervisors be requested to adopt laws prohibiting all stock from running at large; and that said laws should be so enforced as to render it unnecessary to maintain fences along our public highways.
FRANK CONN, Sec'y.

GALESBURG, Feb. 26th, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb: The next regular meeting of Kalamazoo Pomona Grange will be held at Galesburg Grange hall, on Thursday, March 18, 1880, at 10 o'clock A. M. prompt. Essays and discussions are expected. A cordial invitation is extended to all fourth degree members, and a full attendance is earnestly solicited.
Z. C. DURKEE, Sec'y

MARILLA, Feb. 24, 1880.

Dear Sir: Please extend notice through the columns of the VISITOR to the members of Manistee District Pomona Grange, that its next meeting will be held in Bear Lake, commencing the first Tuesday in April, at 2 o'clock P. M.
Mrs. J. A. POPE, Sec'y.

HOWELL, March 9th, '80.

Bro. J. T. Cobb: The next meeting of the Livingston Co. Council will be held at Howell, Tuesday, March 23d, at 1 P. M. All Grangers are cordially invited to attend. Yours fraternally,
N. J. HOLT,
Sec'y. Giv. Co. Council.

Attention, Patrons!

It will be to the advantage of every Granger to send us their address, and receive by return mail our SEND PRICES LIST, free. Geo. W. Hill & Co., 80 Woodbridge St., West, Detroit, Mich.

The H. L. C. Leather Dressing.

MIDDLEBUSH, N. J., May 23d, '79. The can of L. D. came safely to hand, and we have given it a thorough test here on my farm. It is certainly all that you claim for it.
I remain, yours fraternally,
MORTIMER WHITEHEAD,
PLAINVIEW, Wash Co., Minn., July 16th, 1879.

A. D. STRONG, Esq.: Dear Sir—The H. L. C. Dressing obtained from you was thoroughly applied to my single and double harness, over six months ago, and I wish to say it on boots and shoes, and I wish to say I am delighted with it. It makes stiff leather soft and pliable. Nothing tries out and gums the surface, as with oils and grease, when used in the hot sun. On the contrary, the leather is very pliable and has a smooth, bright surface. I believe it the best article any can use on harness, boots and shoes, for hot or cold, wet or dry weather. I never used anything I liked so well, and from personal acquaintance and business with you, I believe all who give you their confidence will be honorably treated and always satisfied.
Yours truly,
T. A. THOMPSON.

Write to G. W. Hill & Co., or any other Grange Agent for general Circular, and price to Granges.

Ladies' Department.

What Shall we do for Our Girls?

There are great questions that to-day claim our attention. There have always been great questions for the public to solve. These questions, and the solving of them is what have worked for us great revolutions. This era sees the solving of many problems that have remained a mystery. Edison and his electric light now claim the attention of the whole world. The political aspect of our country; the question of capital and labor; of science versus the religion of Jesus of Nazareth. These are questions that we are called upon to examine and give our voice in the issue. But one of the most intricate problems that we as fathers and mothers are called upon to solve, and which should claim our closest attention and most careful consideration, is the unfolding of these little lives that the giver of all good has entrusted to our keeping. After the curse was pronounced, as if to mitigate the great evil of sin, children were given to humanity to bless, cheer, and comfort the home. The little ones come into our homes, and their lives and loves so twine themselves about our hearts that they are as dear to us as life itself. And when we remember that we are to fit, mould these little ones for the work of life, it behooves us to see that we do our part well. Dr. Channing has said, "That no office can compare with that of training the child." I saw not long since a question asked in one of our leading journals, "What shall we do with our girls?" To-day I change the question a little and ask, not what shall we do with them, but what shall we do for them? Our girls that are to become the wives and mothers of this Nation, and that are destined at no distant day to fill the positions that we now occupy.

We argue and discuss rotation of crops, the value of different fertilizers, the relative value of different breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, but how little attention do we give to this great subject. How shall we best fit our daughters for the practical duties of life, which, if they live to womanhood's years, they must meet. Influences that are almost imperceptible in childhood, work out more and more broadly into beauty or deformity in after life. Then how essential that these influences, these fittings and mouldings should be right. I do not ask how our daughters can become belles of society, gay but-terflies of fashion, polished jewels, but how they may be best fitted for the practical duties of life. We cannot begin too early to teach them, that they, as well as their brothers, must bear some part in the burdens of life. I notice a great difference in the training of the boys and girls in many of our rural homes. The boy, as soon as he is old enough, has some duty that he is expected to perform daily, and if he is at all sharp he soon finds out that he must pave his own way. If the adage proves true that "the boy makes the man" just so surely does the girl make the woman. What our girls are to-day is a very good index of the women they will make.

I look about me in families where there are daughters from five to fifteen years of age, and in many instances the mother is a perfect slave. In a family I know that has four grown daughters, I remarked to the mother, "What a comfort your daughters must be, and what a help they must be to you." "Yes," said she with a sigh, "they are a great comfort to me, but the more girls I have, the more I have to do." Yet there are some girls, noble girls too, that I know, who naturally do their part in life, naturally lightening the burdens on mother's shoulders, and who shine as sunbeams in their homes. But the fault is not naturally with the girls, but with the mothers. If we would remember that our girls in a majority of cases will become wives,

bearing their part in the work of life, and that while at home they must be fitted for the future. Let them learn a little each day while at home, and how much will be gained. I know there are many mothers who say, they had much rather do the work themselves than to be bothered teaching their children. I presume this is true, but how much better to do this than to learn the hows and whys by actual experience in after life, and they have always to regret that "mother did not teach me while I was young."

Every girl over seven years of age should have some daily duty to perform, and whatever they are required to do, accept nothing but work well done. Let the child understand this, that no sham, no half-way work will do. These home duties are as much a part of her education as her geography, algebra, or grammar, and just as essential. I care not if you are able to support your children without work. If you are and do, your children are objects of pity. They should be taught to work, that they may have a just appreciation of others' work, if for nothing else.

The question has often been asked, why our girls do not receive the same pay for the same work as our boys? I fear if you will look at this matter candidly, and examine it impartially you will find that they do not do the same work in the same manner as our boys, for our boys, as a general thing, are much more practical than our girls, and what they are taught to do they do more thoroughly. Our girls are as a general thing, too superficial. Not how I can best do this, but how it will look the best. Not how I can most thoroughly and effectively accomplish any given end, but how can I get over it in the shortest time possible and make it pass. They are not by education skilled workers. I know that these are harsh things to say about our girls,—our girls that we love so well, but I think you will find it the truth. We are obliged to take things as we find them, not as we would like to have them. I think when you find skilled labor in a woman (remember I say skilled labor), you will find that if she works the same hours at the work as a man, she will receive the same pay.

If, with our daughters is found a desire for public or professional life, every avenue is now open for its accomplishment. But these avenues must be thoroughly explored; they must become skilled in their work, that they may compete with their brothers. My friends, it has come to just this: It must be competition; and this they must learn. Till the present, the standard for women to attain has been low. To-day, if she will, she may stand side by side with her brothers, follow the same vocations, achieve the same results. To-day, there are many young and middle aged women, asking for something to do, aside from the needle and kitchen, by which they may earn a living. But so far, their education has been too superficial to admit them to places of trust and responsibility. Their judgment in the practical concerns of life has not been developed. They have not learned that great lesson of self-control. They have no taste for routine work, and the fault of all lies in their early home training. I believe such balance of judgment may be cultivated, such powers of mind formed, such lessons of self-control learned, while at home, that they may be fitted for positions of responsibility, or more humble positions, and fill them with fidelity, honor, and virtue. A wife who has been obliged to stop along the wayside of life, and lay her husband to rest, who has been a sharer of her toils, cares, and plans, who has known all about her husband's business, who often becomes, by her very associations with him, able to bravely take up the broken threads of all his plans and hopes, and carry out successfully what he had anticipated, and secure for herself and little ones a home.

Enlargement of women's sphere

must come from within. In just such a ratio as she becomes a noble, self-reliant girl, in just such a ratio will she become better fitted for increased usefulness, when a woman, in whatever sphere her lot may be cast.

Mrs. PERRY MAYO.

Marshall, Mich., Feb. 22.

Unforgotten Portland Grange.

PORTLAND, Feb. 23rd, 1880.

Dear Sisters of the Visitor:

As I have never seen anything in the VISITOR concerning Portland Grange, No. 174, I thought I would venture to write a few lines concerning it, and let the readers of the VISITOR all know that such a Grange exists, and that the majority of its members are alive and wide awake, although they are backward in writing to let other Granges know what they have done, and are doing.

Our Grange was organized December 10th, 1873, with a charter membership of 21 members. It suffered all the ills incident to youth and inexperience, and at times its life was almost despaired of; but thanks to the careful nursing of about a dozen staunch members, it was carried safely through, and is stronger and healthier than before. Like all other Granges we have lost quite a number from suspensions and dimits. Profiting by the past experience we believe, we can do more and better work in the next seven years. We held our meetings in the upright of a dwelling house which was donated to our Grange by Bro. A. Decker, one of our Past Masters, who is a worthy Patron, and has rendered the Grange great service. It is with regret that we see him and his family making preparations to leave for Kansas.

We have upwards of fifty members in good standing, last year we received 12 new members, mostly young people, have three applications at present, all young folks,—you see the young people are getting interested, which speaks well for the future of the Order. We have essays and select readings, and plenty of discussions, in which nearly all take an active part, that makes it very interesting. We have some good talkers who say considerable, and some who say but little, yet have excellent ideas. I think if we could only get them to jot down some of their thoughts on paper that the columns of the VISITOR would always be crowded with interesting matter; perhaps by the time this paper is enlarged again some of them will muster up courage to write.

We also have had during the last six months visiting committees appointed to visit the homes of members. I tell you that roused them up to a sense of their position, and the condition of things generally. We intend keeping up those visits too, and as soon as we get around once, begin again and keep things busy. It has been productive of great good already. It makes such interesting meetings when the reports are made; besides, we gain much useful information that could not be obtained in any other way. No reports have ever been in writing, or they would have been sent for publication. I wish I understood short-hand writing, I'd fix them, and they couldn't help themselves either. We had a nice little social dance with a— not little supper, by which we netted about twenty dollars, with which we propose to buy a new carpet, and making our room more convenient and attractive. We also keep a small grocery, and every spring order one or two car-loads of plaster, and last year two car-loads of salt and doubtless will do the same this year.

I'll write no more, for fear of making my article too lengthy. If you think this is worth giving to your readers, perhaps some others will gather courage, or you may hear again from

THE OLD MAID.

—A woman hearing a great deal about "preserving autumn leaves," put up some, but afterwards told a neighbor they were not fit to eat, and she might as well have thrown her sugar away.

Table Appointments, No. 2.

I suppose every one has one or more hobbies, or pet theories, and as the appearance of the table is one of mine, I venture to make a few more suggestions in regard to table etiquet, as well as the best method of keeping it in order.

We all know that handsome linen, china, silver, and cut glass are very beautiful when neatly arranged, but they are not absolutely essential to a well set and nice looking table. Plain delf, neatly arranged looks even better than a costly service that is negligently cared for, and used with no order or fitness.

I once knew a lady who was very particular to have every dish or plate returned to the exact spot from which it was taken when it had been passed, and her table was in excellent order, even when she left it.

The knife and fork should be placed side by side on a plate, when a meal is finished, and not the fork resting on one side of the plate and the knife on the other, nor should they be crossed on the plate.

If you have silver forks and spoons, use them every day, and do not lay them up for company, or for a second wife to enjoy. They are a great saving in labor, and will last many years, if used with care. If you have a castor, don't lay it up for company, and put on a tin pepper box for your own family.

I consider the use of napkins an economy, not only of table-cloths, but they more than save their cost, and the trouble of washing and ironing them, by keeping the clothing from being soiled.

Never give a guest a napkin that has the faintest suspicion of previous use about it, and a guest staying but for one meal should not have a napkin ring. They are only designed to enable each member of the family to claim their own napkin at each meal, and by using them you avoid so much washing.

These suggestions may seem very absurd to some, but if you had been seated as guest at a table, served with silver, china, and cut glass, with all the luxuries of the season, and at the same time had a soiled napkin (in a silver ring) given you, it might not seem so out of place to give these hints.

It strikes me that if mothers made it a point to caution their children about making a noise in eating and drinking, pickin' their teeth with a fork, using their napkin instead of a handkerchief, and many other things that are equally out of place, we should not find so many people who were disagreeable in their manners at table. If children are allowed to say, "Give me some bread," "I want some butter," without being told better, who is to blame if it becomes a habit with them? Surely not the children.

Good manners and politeness in our every-day life is certainly to be commended; and the lack of them is even more apparent at the table than elsewhere.

CHLOE.

Otisco Grange, No. 187.

I have looked for some time, hoping to see an article from this Grange from an abler pen than mine, but as my hopes have not been realized, *ad interim*, I will say we have a prosperous, flourishing Grange. In numbers, we have over one hundred, and a class of six young men about to be initiated. I suppose our Grange is like all others—made up of all sorts of members; some that would be very good Grangers if they could only have office; some that stay away on account of some petty prejudice against the presiding officer (such ones I think spite themselves the most); some that are bound to pick flaws with everything that is done; some very knowing ones that think the Grange couldn't prosper without them; and besides these, we have a goodly number of faithful earnest Grangers. We have, in general, a large

attendance, and good literary exercises nearly every meeting. We have a Lecturer who is able, both physically and intellectually, to do the work assigned him. But in order to make the meetings interesting, it is necessary that each one should take part in the discussions, and half of us sit with folded hands, and say, "Well, what I could say would not be of much benefit." If all should do that way, I fear the Grange would soon degenerate, and yet probably the one half are just as capable of saying something valuable as the other half. It is this lack of confidence that keeps us in our seats. By repeated efforts this diffidence can be removed. And where, indeed, can we find a better place to overcome this than in the Grange? For who is there we need be afraid of? We are all brothers and sisters, and should be there for the purpose of educating ourselves. But as my communication is already too long, I forbear.

Yours fraternally, c.

WAITING BY THE GATE.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Beside a massive gateway,
Built up in years gone by,
Upon whose tops the clouds
In eternal shadows lie;
While streams the evening sunshine
On quiet wood and lea,
I stand and calmly wait
Till the hinges turn for me.

The tro-pops faintly rustle
Beneath the breezy flight;
A soft and soothing sound,
Yet it whispers of the night.
I hear the wood thrush piping
One mellow, desecant note,
And scent the flowers that blow
When the heat of day is o'er.

Behold the portals open,
And o'er the threshold now
There steps a weary one,
With a pale and furrowed brow.
His count of years is full,
His allotted time is wrought;
He passes to his rest,
From a place that needs him not.

In sadness then I ponder
How quickly fleeth the hour
Of human strength and action,
Man's courage and his power!
I muse, while still the wood-thrush
Sings down the golden day,
And as I look and listen
The sadness wears away.

Again I look and listen,
And a youth departing, throws
A look of longing backward,
And sorrowfully goes.
A blooming maid, unbinding
The roses from her hair,
Moves mournfully away
From among the young and fair.

O, glories of our race
That so suddenly decays!
O, crimson flush of morning
That darkens as we gaze!
O, breath of summer blossoms,
That on the listless air
Scatters a moment's sweetness,
And flies, we know not where!

I grieve for life's bright promise,
Just shown and then withdrawn;
But still the sun shines round me,
The evening bird sings on;
And I again am soothed,
And beside the ancient gate,
In this soft evening sunlight
I calmly stand and wait.

Once more the gates are opened;
An infant group goes out,
The sweet smile quenched forever,
And stilled the brightly shout.
O, frail, frail tree of life,
That upon the greensward strews
Its fair young buds, unopened,
With every wind that blows.

So come from every region,
To enter, side by side,
The strong and faint of spirit—
The weak, and men of pride,
Steps of earth's great and mighty,
Between the pillars gray,
And prints of little feet
Mark the dust along the way.

And some approach along the threshold
Whose looks are blank with fear;
And some whose temples brighten
With joy on drawing near,
As if they saw dear faces,
And caught the gracious eye
Of him, the Sinless Teacher,
Who came for us to die.

I mark the joy, the terror,
Yet these, within my heart
Can neither wake the dream,
Nor the longing to depart.
And in the sunshine streaming,
On quiet wood and lea,
I stand and calmly wait
Till the hinges turn for me.

Educate! Educate!

There is one thing farmers need as much as combination, and that is education. We do not mean, by this, to say that they are ignorant, but there is a great difference between being ignorant, and not being educated enough. There is also a vast difference between an ornamental and fashionable education, and one that fits a person for the practical duties of his calling. In the Grange a young person gets both the useful and ornamental in such proportions as give him strength and culture.

Correspondence.

February Meeting of Macon Grange, No. 167.

February 23d, 1880.

Bro. Cobb:

We come the second time, with gleanings of the published session of our Grange, held Feb. 20th, 7 o'clock P. M. The attendance was larger than usual, and the exercises quite interesting.

After the regular order of business, and song by the choir, the discussion as to the most profitable kind of clover for farmers to raise was taken up, with a vim, and resulted in the general opinion that the raising of clover was essential to the successful raising of wheat; that soils which fail to produce clover for a few years, would also fail to produce a good stand of wheat. That for heavy, reduced, soil, the large red clover was most profitable, being a great fertilizer, and remunerative in seed. For medium soil, the medium clover, being a good fertilizer, and valuable for hay and pasture; also remunerative in seed. In mixed farming, on soils adapted, a few acres of Alsike are profitable, for hay and pasture.

The essay on "The Cultivation of Flowers" was passed, Mrs. Roberts being absent, but other sisters engaged in extemporaneous remarks, on the necessity of appropriating a portion of time to the study and cultivation of flowers, for their refining influence and pleasing variety of scenery in yard and household.

"Recess socials are always good." The opening song was passed, Miss Scudder being absent, rehearsing pieces for a musical concert to come off the next evening. Select readings were also passed, Mrs. Rogers having been absent at the last meeting, and not seeing the published program.

The essay by Mrs. Stewart was well received, and should be heard to be fully appreciated. By solicitation, we are permitted to publish the same in full, as follows:

Worthy Master, Bros. and Sisters:

I see, through the published program, that an essay was expected from me this evening. I had supposed that it was the generally conceded opinion that I am not a literary character. But I am interested in the advancement of the Grange, and believe it cannot be attained unless every member is ready to do their work. We claim to be a live Grange, but cannot sustain such claim unless every member is a worker. We all know that we are something, there is some nook or corner each can fill; and the sooner we ascertain what our talent is, the sooner the machinery will get into successful working order. This cannot be done unless every member is willing to do their duty,—and that is the reason that I appear before you this evening, claiming your indulgence for a few moments.

Now, as Patrons of Husbandry, we should be proud of our Order, but it is necessary, for growth and prosperity, that we advance in every branch of our calling, for unless we do, we are slipping backward—we cannot remain stationary. Our motto should be, "Onward and upward."

There is talent enough here, if properly brought out, to make a lasting light that will shine far into the future. There are those who think the farmer's life consists in tilling the soil, making butter and cheese, to the exclusion of everything else. What business have we with books, music, or anything pertaining to a refined or literary taste?

They forget that we live in constant companionship with Nature, untrammelled by the vice and corruption which make up so large a part of our towns. We come in daily contact with the pure and ennobling, and if we do not make advancement in that which is elevating, it is owing to our own perverted taste. Good and evil are continually around us; if we seek only the good, which we can find in everything, we

will soon have no taste for the coarse and illiterate.

We meet in this hall semi-monthly, for the benefit of the members; we should strive to make our meetings and entertainments pleasant and instructive, for both old and young. We ought to make these meetings such that our young people would want to unite with us. We must not weary in well doing,—if the laborers are few, we must redouble our zeal; we have come to the front, and must sustain it—we can if we will. There is talent enough in this Grange, if taken from the napkins, to make these meetings pleasant and instructive. Shall it be said that we are lessening in numbers, through lack of energy? If we have any brains, bring them into action. Let each member bear their part for a few times, it will then cease to be a burden, but rather a pleasure. We do not know what we can do, until we try. Let the selections be entertaining, something in which we are all interested, brief and to the point, so as to not weary. I am anxious for a live, working Grange, which I think we are capable of sustaining. Then I shall be proud to be a Granger. We can be what we will, the future lies before us. H. L. S.

The discussion on "How to make our Grange meetings the most interesting," was participated in by nearly every member present, and the prevailing opinion was, that each member should be punctual, on time, so that meetings could be called to order at the appointed hour; that the exercises should be taken up with a spirit of enterprise, and so diversified that some part thereof would be interesting to each member. That musical and literary exercises should be intermingled, so as to interest the young members. That there should be occasional socials, feasts and public meetings, with invited speakers,—showing companionship, magnanimity, and philanthropy.

My communication is already too long, please excuse and accept.

Fraternally yours,
A. EASLICK, Rep.

Ferris Grange, No. 440.

FERRIS, Feb. 23d, 1880.

Editor Grange Visitor:

I wish the VISITOR sent as per list, for which find enclosed \$1.50.

Our Grange, No. 440, is in a flourishing condition, and, in fact, the Order is prospering throughout the County.

We are buying our plaster from the Patrons' Plaster Company, as all true Patrons should.

The next meeting of the Pomona Grange of this County will be at our Grange hall, on March 4th; many of our members intend to join it.

We are keeping a Grange store in connection with our Grange, and we own our hall and are out of debt,—and time only serves to teach us more and more of the importance of the Order, and we are doing all we can to educate ourselves in the duties we owe to God, our country, our neighbors and ourselves. C. D. MASON,

Master Ferris Grange, No. 440.
Moncalm County, Mich.

From Tennessee.

OAK HILL, Overton Co., Tenn., }
February 23d, 1880. }

Bro. Jerome T. Cobb:

Thanks for samples of your paper, sent not long since. I have examined and re-examined it, and I must say that I like it decidedly—for the reason that it is entirely devoted to the interest of the Grange, and not half taken up with advertisements that are of little or no benefit to the non-speculating Patrons. Surely, I like it with the "jack-knives" left out.

Enclosed please find 50 cents, for one year's subscription, to commence with Jan. 15th, if back numbers can be furnished. When I get my paper regularly, I will drop you an occasional note as to what we are doing in the mountains of Tennessee.

Fraternally,
ELIHU WELLS.

Letter from a Granger in Ohio.

WORKING GRANGE, No. 509.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I herewith enclose P. O. money order for \$4, for which send eight copies of the GRANGE VISITOR to the following names. Send all the numbers of this year. These make ten copies in all taken by members of our Grange.

You will also find fifteen cents, for which send me a copy of the new singing book. I was happy to know that the VISITOR paid its own way in 1879, and happier to see it come out enlarged and improved so much in 1880. That fact alone, brothers and sisters, speaks volumes to encourage us forward to the accomplishment of the grand aims and objects of our Order, and in no way can we do more for the good of the Grange than to solidly support our own paper.

The VISITOR is the Patrons' own paper, and to demonstrate that fact, let the members of the Order in this State follow the example set by Union Grange, No. 259, and the editor will find no trouble in increasing the circulation 1,500 copies this year.

Patrons, read each number through carefully, and then lend it to a neighbor, who is outside the gate, to read.

We must not only read the VISITOR, but contribute liberally from our minds and pens towards filling up its pages with our best thoughts and brightest ideas. The good work will then go on more rapidly.

I think the Ladies' Department of the VISITOR is extremely well filled, as a careful perusal of that department will prove. "Not all the strongest caskets contain the brightest jewels." How tame is that saying! I am pleased to state that W. G., No. 509, is reviving, and a few who have been tardy in their attendance are coming home again. They have learned that the Grange is the farmers' own and only organization which constantly and effectively labors for the good of the agricultural classes.

We had a public installation of officers on the 24th of January. The Hon. Harvey Kellogg, of North Light Grange, Ohio, assisted by Sister Collard, installed our officers, "And all went merry as a marriage bell." There were those present who never saw the inside of a Grange hall before, and all expressed themselves as highly pleased, not only with the feast which kind hands had provided, but with all the exercises of the occasion.

Our co-operative store is in a flourishing condition, and doing a good business. T. G. CHANDLER, Sec.
Sylvania, O.

Allegheny County.

MONTREY, Alleghen Co. }
February, 23d, 1880. }

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I see in the VISITOR of Jan. 15th, a communication from a Patron of Trowbridge Grange, in which he says, "We have gone in on the independent plan with our County organization." He is either ignorant of what we have formed, or he means to misrepresent us. (There was talk of forming an independent Grange in this County, but it did not carry.) We have formed a County Council of Patrons of Husbandry. We propose to work as true Patrons, and not as outsiders. Our Constitution sets forth that we are to labor for the good of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry throughout the country. We expect to work hard, and if the County will take hold and work there will be no reason why we cannot do ourselves good as an Order, but if the Patrons of the County hang back and do not take an interest in the work we cannot expect to accomplish much. This would be the same if we had any other organization, I care not what our name may be, unless the Patrons take hold and go to work it would not be a success.

Jos. H. WENTWORTH, Pres.
O. G. LINDSLEY, Lecturer.

A Farmer who was Found Worthy—Grange News.

VERMONTVILLE, Feb. 25, 1880.

Bro. Cobb:

Sugar making is the order of the day here, but as I have been housed by a severe cold, I will try and report progress here.

The Barry and Eaton Mutual Fire Insurance Company held their annual meeting at Hastings, Feb. 17th. A Secretary was to be elected, and three lawyers aspired to the position, and one farmer who had been a Director, thought that he could do the work—and a majority of 453 ballots cast said he might. So Mr. D. W. Rogers, of Carlton, is to fill the position for three years. Whether he be a member of our Order or not, I do not know or care; our principle has prevailed and is still working.

Feb. 18th, we met at Sampson Hall, Charlotte, at 1 o'clock P. M., and heard one of Bro. Woodman's good talks, on the Grange and its principles, in which he reviewed the condition of farmers in Europe, and asserted that causes were at work in our own land to reduce them to the same low condition; these could only be counteracted by organized effort. The Grange is the only thorough organization for farmers the world has ever produced, and it has done much good work, and finds its hands full of new work.

Bro. Whitney made a few remarks, when the meeting adjourned, the Patrons going to Ketcham's Hall, where Bro. Whitney proceeded to organize Eaton County Pomona Grange, No. 28. Seventy-four members were enrolled, and all the officers were elected and installed. An Executive Committee of four, two for two years and two for one year, were elected—after which, owing to the lateness of the hour, the meeting closed. I should state, however, that Charlotte, April 15th, were chosen as the time and place of the first regular meeting.

The next day at 10 o'clock A. M., the Vermontville Grange, No. 625, met at their hall, together with visiting members from several Granges, and Bro. Adams, of Grand Rapids, W. M. Woodman, of the National Grange, and W. L. Whitney, of Michigan.

The chief topic was "Incorporation," on which Bro. Woodman made some explanations, for our benefit and instruction.

At 1 o'clock P. M., quite an audience gathered at Loomis' Hall, to hear a public address by W. M. Woodman. As there was more time, and less hoarseness, than on the previous day, he dwelt more at length on the same general subject.

As has seemed usual with us in this County, the travelling was against us, but our meetings were pleasant, instructive, and profitable.

Fraternally,
B. E. BENEDICT.

A Pleasant Occasion.

Worthy Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Sixty-seven members of Battle Creek Grange paid a visit to Galesburg Feb. 20th, arriving on the noon train, at 12:30, and departing on the Evening Express, leaving Galesburg at 10:30.

The exercises consisted of speeches, music, a feast, provided by Galesburg Grange, etc.

Among the speakers were Messrs. Hoagland, Austin, Coy, and Mrs. Shepherd, of Battle Creek; Messrs. Risbridger, Woodford, and White, of Bedford Grange; Messrs. Mayo and Hough, of Marshall Grange.

A very fine essay by Mrs. Mayo, on "What Shall we do for our Soils," elicited an extended discussion on this important problem.

The program, as laid down, was as follows: Reception at train by members of Galesburg Grange; escort to hall; address of welcome, by H. Dale Adams, W. M. of Galesburg Grange; response, by A. W. Dickinson, W. M. of Battle Creek Grange; speaking, by members of Battle Creek and Galesburg Granges; conferring fourth degree on

two candidates of Galesburg Grange: recess; address by H. B. Hoagland, on "Business Capacity of Farmers;" recess, for refreshments. Call to order; essay by Mrs. Mayo; discussion, etc.; close. Open meeting, for benefit of those outside the gates; remarks by A. D. P. Van Buren and others; meeting adjourned by resolution of thanks to Galesburg Grange for the very hospitable manner in which they entertained all present; escort to train, and thus closed one of the most enjoyable occasions within the experience of the many persons present for many years past. ADAM.

A Grange which Improves its Privileges.

BYERS, Feb. 25th, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I thought I would write a few lines to the VISITOR to let you know how we are getting along in this part of the Grange vineyard. I should have written before, but I have been prevented from doing so by the misfortune of breaking my right arm, on the 8th of Dec. last.

Fern Grange, No. 475, is alive and doing what it can, in a small way) for we are but few in numbers, but I think we are strong in the faith that the Grange is a benefit to the farmer financially, as well as mentally, socially and morally.

Last November we sent an order for groceries to G. W. Hill & Co., of Detroit, the goods and prices were just as represented, and gave all satisfaction, at a saving of about 20 per cent from what we could have bought the same goods of our home dealers; and several bills have been ordered since, with the same result. The last order was for cloverseed, which was all right. As to quality, prices, and weight—after being shipped here in one lot, in bags, and then sold out in small lots to the members—it did not fall short one ounce.

Now I would say to those who say, "We can't see any benefit to the farmer, in dollars and cents, by belonging to the Grange." All I say is, "You are mistaken. The fault is with you."

Improve the privileges and advantages the Grange gives you, and you will find that I am correct in my assertion, and that the money invested in paying your quarterly dues is yielding you a larger per cent than you are aware of, beside all the enjoyments which all good brothers and sisters know we find at the Grange.

Now, my advice to the Granges of this, or any other State, is to patronize your own established Agencies, and in particular, G. W. Hill & Co., of Detroit.

Right here let me say a few words more, for the VISITOR. I think the 50 cents a year paid for it is another good investment, and if the individual members will not take it, let the Subordinate Grange take a copy for each family, to be paid for by the Grange. You will find it pays.

Fraternally yours,
JOHN T. BEYERS.

A Prosperous Grange.

J. T. Cobb:

Orion Grange, No. 259, is determined to do her part in the great and noble work that the Order of P. of H. has undertaken to accomplish.

We initiated 25 new members in the third and fourth degrees, on Feb. 21st, followed by a feast, and a social good time generally. All had a pleasant time, if their bright and happy faces were an index of their feelings.

Enclosed find an order for nine copies of the VISITOR, making fifty-three copies for Orion Grange. Where is the Grange that is ahead of Orion?

The Grange is doing a good and noble work in the education of our farmers, their wives, sons and daughters.

Patrons, let us persevere till we raise our profession to the position which justly belongs to it.

HIRAM ANDREWS,
Sec'y Orion Grange, No. 259.
Orion, March 1st, 1880.

