

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY,

BY ORDER OF THE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

[Kalamazoo Publishing Co.'s Print.]

VOL. 6.—No. 12.  
WHOLE No. 92

SCHOOLCRAFT, JUNE 15th, 1880.

{ YOUR SUBSCRIPTION  
will Expire with No.

Entered at the Post Office at Schoolcraft as Second Class matter.

**THE GRANGE VISITOR,**  
Is Published on the First and Fifteenth of every Month  
**AT FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM,**  
 invariably in Advance.

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

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

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### OLD GRANDPA'S SOLILOQUY.

It wasn't so when I was young—  
We used plain language then;  
We didn't speak of "them galoots,"  
Meanin' boys and men.

When speaking of the nice hand-write  
Of Joe, or Tom, or Bill,  
We did it plain—we didn't say,  
"He slings a nasty quill."

An' when we saw a girl we liked,  
Who never failed to please,  
We call her pretty, neat, and good,  
And not "about the cheeks."

Well, when we met a good old friend,  
We hadn't lately seen,  
We greeted him, but didn't say,  
"Hello, you old sardine!"

"The boys sometimes got mad an' fit;  
We spoke of kicks and blows;  
But now they "whack him on the snoot,"  
Or "baste him on the nose."

Once, when a youth was turned away  
By her he held most dear,  
He walked upon his feet—but now  
He "walks off on his ear."

We used to dance when I was young,  
And used to call it so;  
But now they don't—they only "sling  
The light fantastic toe."

Oh death we spoke in language plain  
That no one did perplex;  
But in these days one doesn't die—  
He "passes in his checks."

We praised the man of common sense;  
"His judgment good," we said;  
But now they say, "Well that old plum  
Has got a level head."

It's rather sad the children now  
Aren't learnin' all such talk;  
They've learned to "chin" instead of chat,  
An' "wault" instead of walk.

To little Harry yesterday—  
"My grandchild, aged two—  
I said, "you love grandpa?" said he,  
"You bet your boots I do."

The children bowed to strangers once;  
It is no longer so—  
Now greet you with "Helloa!"

Oh, give us back the good old days,  
When was the old and young  
Conversed in plain, old-fashioned words,  
And slang was never "slung."

### Welcoming Address by Bro. Mortimer Whitehead.

For the first time in several years, the Buckeye State is honored this week with the official presence of the highest officer in our Order, and we know that we speak the sentiments of upwards of 40,000 Patrons in Ohio when we bid Bro. J. J. Woodman, our truly Worthy Master of the National Grange, a hearty, cordial, and fraternal welcome within our borders. He comes among us not as a stranger, for his name and deeds are as household words, in the homes of all true Patrons.

We bid him welcome as the MAN respected and beloved, as we know he is, by his neighbors, those who have known him longest and best, than which no higher meed of praise can be given.

We bid him welcome as the FARMER, a practical and successful tiller of the soil, whence from contact with the wide acres of his farm, he has derived the broad and generous views for which he is noted, rendering him eminently capable of representing our farmers and our Order as a Commissioner at the Paris Exposition of 1876, or in any position in our land to represent its great underlying industry that gives employment to more than half the people, and feeds and sustains all the rest besides.

We bid him welcome as the CITIZEN, a truly representative man in every sense of the word. Having filled high positions of trust and honor in the gift of the people of his State, having been for several years the presiding officer of the House in their Legislature, and of whose life as a representative citizen, men of all parties speak only words of praise.

We bid him welcome as the PATRIOT, whose earnest words of love and anxiety for the welfare of his Nation's land have but to be heard to convince all that his is a patriotism that is not limited by State or section, or dwarfed and trammelled by partisan ties. Would that every officer and representative in our State and National bodies was a Woodman in spirit and in deed.

We bid him welcome as the PATRON. In his own State of Michigan he has, by his considerate and conservative, yet dignified leadership, placed our Order high in the affections of its members, and the respect of those

outside the gate; and who in his higher and more extended command at the head of our grand army of peace and good will, whose lines extend from ocean to ocean, and from the waters of the Gulf to the colder clime beyond the lakes, has already inspired new hope, and is kindling again the watchfires of our Order among the hills, the valleys, and the prairies, all over our land. Like the general on the field of battle, whose presence seen and felt in the thickest of the fray nerves to nobler deeds and cheers the weak and faltering; so we know his mission in the days of bud and bloom, flowers and bird song, accompanying nature's awakening after the sleep of winter, typical of the grand awakening of our Order after its season's inactivity—will cause the heart of the Patron to rejoice, the faint heart to grow strong, and those without our gates to know that our cause is just, our mission the general good. So we say welcome, welcome once again, to the man, the farmer, the citizen, the patriot, and the PATRON, our friend and brother, and may his visit to us result, as we know it will, in "the good of our Order, our country, and mankind."—Cincinnati Grange Bulletin.

### The Revised Manual.

The Revised Manual, authorized by the last National Grange, is now in the hands of the Secretary of the National Grange, and will be sent to the State, Pomona and Subordinate Granges upon proper orders, officially signed and sealed, as the following official circular will indicate:

NATIONAL GRANGE,  
PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY,  
To Grange:  
In compliance with the instructions of the National Grange, given at Canandaigua, N. Y., Nov. 28, 1879 (see page 140, Proceedings Thirteenth Session), the Executive Committee has had printed the Revised Manual, which is now the "authoritative and official Manual of the Order," and has placed the same in the hands of the Secretary for issue to Granges.

The following prices have been fixed for this Manual: \$14.00 per hundred copies; \$1.75 per dozen copies, and 25 cents each for less than one dozen. Unless orders are given to the contrary, the books will be shipped by express, the party ordering to pay the cost. If so desired, the books will be sent by mail, registered, in which case the postage and registration fee must accompany the order. The postage on twelve copies is 18 cents, with 10 cents additional for registration, the cost for mailing is 28 cents.

In no case will a Manual be sold to an individual; and all orders for them must bear the seal of the Grange, whether State or Subordinate, for which it is ordered.

Masters of Granges are urged to keep the members constantly in mind of the fact that the Manual must not be exposed where it may be seen by parties who are not Patrons, and that all Manuals are the property of the Grange.

The Secretary of the National Grange has also the following books for sale:

Song Books, with music, flexible covers, \$1.50 per dozen copies; if ordered in less quantity, 15 cts. per copy.  
Secretary's Record Books, 45 cents each.

Treasurer's Account Books, 40 cents each.  
Order Books, 25 cents each.  
Receipt Books, 25 cents each.  
Roll Books, 10 cents each.

Digests, 25 cents each.  
Application Books, 40 cents per 100.  
These books will be sent by mail, and the above prices include the postage. If desired to be sent by express, the party ordering must pay the freight charges.

As all the business of the Secretary's office is conducted on a cash basis, books or supplies will not be sent, in any case, unless the cash therefore accompanies the order.

By order of the Executive Committee,  
WM. M. IRELAND,  
Secretary of the National Grange,  
No. 602 D St., Washington City, D. C.

An editor out West, who has served for many years as a jurymen, says: "I am so full of law that it is with great difficulty I refrain from cheating somebody."

THE pay of the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad is greater than that received by the President of the United States.

### The Future of the Telephone.

In its infancy, with the inertia of custom to overcome, the system has developed a capacity for growth that has distanced the expectation of the most sanguine, and its utility as well as its capacity for further development increases with every new wire, more especially with every new connecting link between central stations. Who, then, can have courage to predict even the immediate future of the system, or to attempt to forecast the social and commercial changes which the annihilation of time and trouble, and the doing away with the mediation of forgetful or erring servants, will bring in their train? Soon it will be the rule and not the exception for business houses, indeed, for the dwellings all well-to-do people as well, to be interlocked by the telephone exchange, not merely in our cities but in all outlying regions. The result can be nothing less than a new organization of society, a state of things in which every individual, however secluded, will have at call every other individual in the community; to the saving of no end of social and business complications, of needless going to and fro, of disappointments, delays, and a countless host of those great and little evils and annoyances which go so far under present conditions to make life laborious and unsatisfactory. The time is close at hand when the scattered members of civilized communities will be as closely united, so far as instant telephonic communication is concerned, as the various members of the body now are by the nervous system.—Scientific American.

### Grange Advice.

Bro. Shipley, Worthy Master of the Oregon State Grange, says:

Put less toil and more thought into your calling, and make it attractive to your children. Unite with the Grange, and take your sons and daughters with you. It is the farmers' own and only organization—a practical combination of united efforts and self help, and affords the society and recreation you and your families so much need. Learn and practice the great principles of truth, justice, charity, and brotherly love upon which it is founded. Cease to be mere plodders, and get out of the narrow groves, isolation, prejudice, and mingled credulity and suspicion, in which you have been running. By mutual aid, educate yourselves, and cultivate your gifts in the frank and free discussion of the Grange, and those great questions in which we are all alike interested. Learn to be saving of the narrow groves, and break the bonds which make you the slaves of party and dupes of demagogues. Thus you will be better qualified to act well your part in life, and fulfill the duties of citizens and law-makers of the State and nation. Thus will your vocation be elevated and made more respectable, and your sons will not be so anxious to exchange the free, pure air of the country for the poisoned atmosphere of the city.

A new supply for paper has been discovered in using the "bagasse," or refuse from the sugar cane mills of the South. Sixty per cent of the sugar cane is juice; forty per cent is bagasse, twenty-five per cent of which is fibre. It has been experimented upon by some of the largest paper mills in the North and East, and reported upon in the most satisfactory manner. It produces a perfectly white paper stock. Louisiana produces about 200,000 hogsheads of sugar per year, and every hogshead furnishes a ton of fibre.

The Michigan Agricultural College is one of the few colleges in the country where the boys have a sentiment against hazing. They have three hours of manual labor per day, which takes off the "wire edge," and gives them some exercise, so that the "sidewalk lifting," rushing, etc., are not actually necessary to keep down their animal spirits. They have lots of fun, however; study well; eat ravenously; do not "bum," and seem to exercise considerable horse sense about getting their education.

### Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKEGON.

### Confidential.

LIKE OFFICERS, LIKE GRANGES. Records tell who are the students and workers in our Order. The records in the office of the State Grange can reveal many facts. They show where are the well organized and hard working Granges. They show who take and read the Visitor.

In fifty-eight of the Granges of the State, claiming to be in good standing, the Secretary does not take the Visitor; in thirty-eight Granges, the Master does not take the Visitor; and in twenty-four Granges the Visitor is taken by neither Master or Secretary. Few, if any, members in the latter case take the Visitor. How can they? Who sets them an example? and do the members not follow their leaders? and will they not all soon be in darkness and gloom, with no guide or light? The Master and Secretary, and every other officer should take and read the Visitor, and use their efforts to get all members to do the same, as well as many outside the Order. How can such Granges as the above expect the farmers outside the gates will learn the teachings, and seek the benefits of our Order when the members, and worse, the officers who should lead, do not read its literature, much less encourage others to learn, through its simplest channels, the great truths these officers and members blindly essay to teach.

### Ahead.

System must have time to be effective. Begin early to plan the campaign of the coming autumn's Grange field work. Already our plans are being laid, and time engaged. About the second week in August, we expect, under the guidance of the Worthy Lecturer of the Lenawee Pomona Grange to begin a series of visits to every locality of that and Monroe Co., of which a full program, in its detail, will be given later. The dormant and weak Granges in that locality should at once arrange for their share in this work, and correspond with us, giving us all the information we need to make the series complete, and a great success. The fourth week in August we go to labor in the interest of our cause in the Grand Traverse District, visiting every County in the district. The program is now nearly ready, under the direction of the of the Traverse Pomona Grange.

Let all Grangers and farmers in the vicinity co-operate in this effort of the Order in their behalf.

THE Calhoun County Grange held a quarterly meeting at Grange hall at Marshall yesterday. The attendance was large, and considerable business was transacted. All the Granges in the County were represented except Leroy Grange. Essays, brief addresses, and the initiation of six members, occupied the day until four o'clock P. M. Dinner was served by the Marshall Grange between 12 and 1 o'clock.



## Communications.

## The Sugar Question—Important Information from Washington.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

The sugar question has already been considered in the VISITOR quite extensively. Its importance will certainly be admitted by every thinking farmer. If you have room in the VISITOR, please publish the following, to show the readers of the VISITOR how an Iowa farmer—Representative in Congress was treated by a lawyer of New York and the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, on a question of the utmost importance to the farmers of the United States:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 20.  
Hon. E. H. Gillette, of Iowa, makes a number of efforts in the house to amend the Agricultural appropriation bill so as to encourage the manufacture of sugar from cornstalks and sorghum. Mr. Gillette is a farmer, was educated at an agricultural college, and represents a district of farmers. He is refused the privilege of a vote upon his amendment, and four times snubbed by the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, a New York dandy lawyer, who parts his hair in the middle, and wears a button-hole bouquet. Mr. Gillette at last turns upon the House, and exposes the frauds of this Committee and the "infamous" rules of the House.

(From the Record of May 19 and 20.)

Mr. Gillette. Mr. Chairman, I offer the following amendment to come in after the word "laboratory," before the one hundred and twentieth line.

The Clerk read as follows:  
For enabling the Commissioner of Agriculture to set up apparatus for manufacturing sugar at various State fairs, and at convenient points in various States to demonstrate to farmers and planters the practicability of making sugar from cornstalks and sorghum, \$50,000.

Mr. Covert. I now renew the point of order, which I feel constrained to make upon this amendment.

The Chairman. The point of order is sustained.

Next day Mr. Gillette made another effort to amend the bill by adding a section.

Mr. Covert. I move that the Committee now rise for the purpose of reporting this bill with amendments to the House.

Mr. Gillette. I desire to offer the amendment which I send to the desk, as an additional section to the bill.

The Clerk read as follows:  
For enabling the Commissioner of Agriculture to set up apparatus for manufacturing sugar at various State fairs, and at convenient points in various States to demonstrate to farmers and planters the practicability of making sugar from cornstalks and sorghum, \$50,000.

Mr. Covert. Upon the presentation of this amendment by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Gillette) the point of order was made and sustained. I do not wish to speak to the point of order, but if it is necessary, I do so most emphatically.

Mr. Gillette. I move to strike out the last word of the section.

The Chairman. The gentleman has already offered an amendment, and upon the amendment the point of order has been raised. It is only in order now to speak to the point of order.

Mr. Gillette. Then I wish to be heard upon the point of order.

The Chairman. The Chair will hear the gentleman on the point of order.

Mr. Gillette. I withdraw my amendment and move to strike out the last word of the previous section.

I wish to address this body for a moment with reference to the system by which we do, I should say, fail to do, things in this Congress. I desire for the moment to call the attention of the House to the rules under which we are trying to manage the affairs of the people of the country.

The greatest interest in the United States is the agricultural interest, and under our rules that industry is consigned to the Committee on Agriculture, which has nothing whatever to do with the selection of that or any other committee. One member, representing the rest of us, coming from a city district which takes no interest in agriculture, and having himself no experience or practical knowledge of it, has supreme control over its make-up. No other member has had a word to say with reference to who shall constitute that committee. I do not wish to find fault with our Speaker nor with any member of this House—far from it.

I do not wish to assail the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture or any member of that committee; but I do wish to find fault with the rules of this House, with a system by which the members of this House, representing the great agricultural districts of the West and South, are hampered and tied and crowded out in all these debates before this body. And I wish to show how that is done.

Of the fifteen members of that committee, eight, a clean majority, are lawyers; one other is a judge; one is a

President of one National bank and director of another, though he has had some experience upon a farm; one is a lawyerman by education and practice, though latterly he has presided over an agricultural college; and just four are practical farmers. Seven members come from the Atlantic seaboard States, New York having two, while the great West, that mighty domain, where nearly all the people are farmers, that great garden, which feeds the East as well as the West, and then sends its vast surplus to Europe, has exclusively little representation upon this committee, and only one farmer. Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas are the only States west of the Mississippi River that are represented, in a territory comprising more than half our country, with a thousand varieties of soil and climate and productions. The magnificent States upon our western seaboard are without a chair in this committee, while the Atlantic seaboard occupies seven, and it is known that any one of these western States and Territories has greater agricultural wealth, undeveloped, than all of the Atlantic States combined.

Mr. Steele. The Delegate from Wyoming (Mr. Downey) is a member of that committee.

Mr. Gillette. So there has been another lawyer just added to the eight already upon the Committee, for he does not appear as a member in the latest directory. Texas, an agricultural State large enough for an empire, Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, California, and each of the Territories call respectively for a system of agriculture peculiar to themselves, and for all possible co-operation of the Government in developing their boundless resources, but they are all—unless Wyoming—without representation on this committee of lawyers, which is very naturally presided over by a lawyer, who does not claim, if I understand it rightly, experience and practical knowledge of agriculture.

I say this committee does not represent the agricultural interests of the people of this country, and has no conception of their needs, as is proved by this bill. I was educated upon a farm, and went through a course of study in the State Agricultural College of New York, and am a farmer. I do not say that I ought to be on this committee. But I do claim that when I get up here representing the farmers of Iowa—a State capable of feeding the whole country—and ask to put upon this bill a little amendment in their interest, I should not be crowded out by the objection of a lawyer who comes from New York, and has no practical interest in agriculture in this country.

I went to that gentleman, the chairman, and begged him to allow me to present my amendment, and let it come to a vote. I went to another member of the committee, and begged him to urge the chairman to let the amendment come before the House.

At different times, on this floor, I urged that gentleman to withdraw his objection, that the House might vote upon my amendment, which I believe is as important as all the rest of the bill put together. Yet four different times he put his veto upon me, sat down upon me, and got the Chair to rule that my amendment should not be entertained, and that I should not be allowed to say a word upon it.

Mr. Chairman, I want the farmers of Iowa, and of the whole country to understand the black infamy of these rules under which this House is controlled by New York lawyers and capitalists, men who get \$100,000 a year out of the treasury to pay as usury to the rich, while yesterday appropriated over \$8,000,000 to what is called the river and harbor steal, and to-day refuse to the agricultural interest even a paltry quarter of a million. I want the farmers of this great nation to rise up like men, and swear by the Great Eternal that the despotism of this House shall be overthrown, and every member who sends here shall have as much to say about this Government, as if they came from New York or Philadelphia. There was never a code better calculated to overthrow free government, than the rules of this House, which convert it into political

bastle for those representatives who come in the interests of farmers and producers, and to crush out monopolies, and all forms of abuse and injustice.

Here the hammer fell.

The manner in which Mr. Gillette was treated on a question of such vast importance to agriculture ought to arouse every farmer who reads an account of it. The idea of lawyers being placed upon the Committee on Agriculture, instead of farmers, is simply absurd. But it demonstrates one thing—that the class of men who have controlled Congress for years past in favor of monopolies and corporations, intend to still control it in the interest of the same class, and against the interest of the laboring and producing classes of this nation. They care but little for the requests and demands of this country. They have already all of the chains forged to rob industry of its reward. They would like to see the sun rise and set on a nation of slaves. Year after year, they have voted hun-

reds of millions of dollars to enrich railroad monopolies, banking corporation, and bond-holders. But when the paltry sum of fifty thousand dollars is asked for by a farmer Representative to demonstrate to farmers what may prove a saving to them of millions of dollars every year, the request is denied.

These men must be hurled from power, and men elected in their stead who will respect the just demands of an abused class of American citizens. Some new members are to be elected to Congress from the State of Michigan this season. Will the farmers of this State be independent, acting, thinking, voting citizens, and nominate and elect men to these important offices who are identified with the great agricultural interests of this State and Nation, or will they allow themselves to be controlled and influenced in their political action by a set of political demagogues, who care for nothing but power, and to rob industry of its just reward? They must make use of the means to protect their rights and interests, or acknowledge themselves cowards and slaves to a few men.

A. FANCKBONER.

## Grange Politics.

The following is a paper read before Howell Grange, No. 90, May 29, by James Harger:

Worthy Brothers and Sisters:

Although, by law, we are prohibited from discussing questions of a partisan nature in the Grange, yet there are many questions relating to politics which every Patron should understand. Love of country and its welfare, jealousy of anything menacing its peace or glory, are sentiments universally acknowledged as worthy a first place in the desires of all right-minded people, and they who possess them not are justly held in scorn.

The history of our country is brief, as compared with that of other great nations.

A hundred years ago our forefathers were battling with the power of Britain for independence. They succeeded, and founded the government and institutions under which we now live.

Every American citizen feels inspired with just pride, in contemplating the past history of his country. The three millions of population at the beginning are increased to fifty millions. The inhabited district, then confined to the narrow Atlantic slope, has spread to the far Ocean. Towns, cities, railroads, telegraphs, magnificent edifices and stupendous works of art, on every hand, bespeak the enterprise of an enlightened people; and, without fear of contradiction, he asserts that never in the history of the world have so many essentials to human happiness and progress as in the United States of America during this hundred years.

We all hope and say that this shall continue forever. But facts are stubborn things, and the question arises, Do they all point that way?

The people in this country are divided into two great political parties, who (whatever may be their principles, printed in platforms) are inspired with one idea, beyond all others, and that idea is hatred for the opposite party. Ask a Democrat to support anything Republican; he says: No! That party knows no Constitution or laws that are binding when in the way of the accomplishment of its wishes, and is as corrupt as the use of unlimited sums of money can make it. Did they not steal our President? The country is surely ruined if they are in power. Ask a Republican to vote for a Democrat: No! Won't he a Copperhead? Didn't he sympathize with the rebels, and don't he act with them now? You might as well elect Jeff Davis and his whole rebel crew at once. And so it is, that each party is sanguine that, if their opponents rule, the country is ruined; and this is not all, for they seem determined that it shall be ruined. "Whom

the gods would destroy they first make mad." Hatred is the venom of destruction. Can the prosperity of the country long endure under this high-pressure system of politics?

In the Grange we are taught a different way. Wisdom has given us the rule of guidance: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things charity." What are the essentials, about which we should be of one mind? They are simply to be faithful, and keep every obligation; to be law-abiding. We are all creatures of circumstances, made what we are by the peculiarities of our surroundings, and, among a hundred men and women, all good and true, no two are exactly alike in mind, any more than they are in the face; they will see the same things differently, and form different beliefs, honestly; and we are told it is non-essential, exercise liberty. How beautiful the teaching by which we learn to have charity for one another's faults, for none are perfect. In the Grange we learn to appreciate the beauty of the lesson. As we meet in union repeatedly, our affections are strengthened, while our care for non-essentials diminishes, in so much that we forget to inquire of the politics or religious beliefs of our associates.

Brother and sister Patrons, judging from the past, we know the present year is to be one of great political excitement in our country. Can we carry some of the principles and practices learned in the Grange with us to our political organizations? Can we learn to take our fellow man by the hand and, although he belongs to the other party from ours, yet, with the assurance of patriotism and obedience to the laws, feel that in essentials we are united, that, although we belong to different parties, advocate different principles and vote different tickets, yet after election, when the result is announced, it will be all right and satisfactory, which-ever side wins? If we do this, it will be a victory greater than the breaking down of monopolies. Party leaders will object to this way of conducting political campaigns, for the present system is to their glory alone. A more independent set of voters will be better men and more patriotic.

All Patrons know, or should know, that only in the exercise of the spirit of charity can the Grange hope long to endure, and will not the same rule apply to all society, and to our country? That the Grange, by its teachings of charity and good-will, in its organization throughout the nation, is the leaven that will change the present political and sectional hatred to fraternal love and good-will, is our earnest hope.

## Those Insects.

LAWRENCE, Van Buren Co.,  
May 28th, 1880.

Dear Prof.:

I send you a box containing two bugs. Have they anything to do with the yellows in peaches? If convenient, please report through GRANGE VISITOR. Respectfully, etc.,

DANIAL NORTHRUP.

The insects referred to by Mr. Northrup are the gold beetles (*Cotalpa Lanigera*). They are of a bright yellow color, an inch long, and in size and form closely resemble the May or June beetle, often called the June bug. These beetles seem to be very numerous this year in all parts of the State.

Their habits are the same as the June beetle. The grubs or larvae, like the white grub, feed on the roots of various vegetables and grasses. They lie as grubs for three years, then they pupate in the ground, and in May and June come forth as beetles to eat a little foliage, beat chiefly to pair and lay their eggs. These yellow beetles have no more to do with yellows in peaches than has blue flowers, the blue sky, and old ocean's blue in making we human's blue.

A. J. COOK,  
Ag. College, Lansing, June 1st.  
W. H. VANDERBILT now has \$51,000,000 in Government bonds.



**BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.**

In speaking of a person's faults,  
Pray don't forget your own;  
Remember those in houses made of glass,  
Should never throw a stone.  
If we have nothing else to do,  
But talk of those who sin,  
'Tis better we commence at home,  
And from that point begin.

We have no right to judge a man,  
Until he's fairly tried;  
Should we not like his company,  
We know the world is wide.  
Some may have faults—and who has not?  
The old as well as young;  
And may, perhaps, for ought we know,  
Have fifty to their one.

I'll tell you of a better plan,  
And find it works full well,—  
To try my own defects to cure,  
Before of others' tell;  
And though I sometimes hope to be  
No worse than some I know,  
My own shortcomings bid me let  
The faults of others go.

Then let us all, when we commence  
To slander friend or foe,  
Think of the harm one word may do,  
To those we little know;  
Remember curses sometimes like  
Our chickens, "roost at home."  
Don't speak of others' faults until  
We have none of our own.

**Correspondence.**

**A Good Idea.**

FOWLER, June 1st, 1880.  
Brother J. T. Cobb:  
We would like to let the Patrons know through the VISITOR, what we are doing in Dallas Grange, No. 505.

In order to work systematically we have divided ourselves into 18 committees, which are as follows:

1. Good of the Order.
  2. Co-operation.
  3. Political Economy.
  4. Farm Economy.
  5. Farm Implements.
  6. Grain.
  7. Horses and Cattle.
  8. Sheep and Swine.
  9. Meadows and pastures.
  10. Vegetable Gardening.
  11. Household conveniences.
  12. Home Ornamentation.
  13. Poultry and Pets.
  14. Botany, Horticulture, and Fruits.
  15. Education.
  16. Literature.
  17. Singing, Amusements, etc.
- On each of the above subjects, one or more members are acting after the following manner. Each member may, at any time, bring in any subject matter which would come under the head of his or her committee. Besides these we have a committee appointed for one year whose duty it is to prepare programs for meetings in advance. These programs are made up of essays, select readings, questions from the query box, and discussions on subjects handed in by members of the various committees. Our system of work is new to many of our members, therefore some do not derive the benefit they will, when all have learned the ropes. Every Patron should bear in mind that in order to be successful, we must have a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together."

Fraternally yours,  
MYRON BROWN.

**A Visit to Acme Grange.**

Bro. Cobb:  
We send you a line in regard to a very pleasant visit to Acme Grange, Camden, Hillsdale Co., Mich. I was invited by Bro. George N. Mead, Master of Acme Grange, South Camden, Hillsdale Co., to make them a visit, and give his Grange a talk in the afternoon and evening of May 20. Acme Grange Hall is situated in South Camden, four miles from Montgomery, a station on the Ft. Wayne and Jackson R. R., in the midst of an excellent farming country. I was met at the station in the morning and conducted by Bro. Mead to his home near the hall, and after a sumptuous dinner, which Sister Mead, like so many of our Patron sisters, knows just how to make delicious, and went to the hall where a large number of Patrons were assembled to listen to our afternoon talk. Our meeting was a pleasant one, and I hope profitable. In the evening the doors were thrown open, and the hall was crammed to its utmost capacity by an intelligent and appreciative audience, which seemed interested in the lecture.

Acme Grange may justly be proud of

its prosperity and bright future. They have just completed a beautiful hall 25x50 feet, and every cent of cost paid. Their work bears the impress of order, and strict conformity to the Ritual in all its proceedings. And of course they are prosperous under the leadership of Bro. Mead, and I am sure that you will in the future hear of much progress in our noble Order from Acme Grange.

Fraternally yours,  
OVERSEER MICH. STATE GRANGE.  
  
Danville Grange, No. 54.  
DANVILLE, Ingham Co., Mich.  
May, 1880.

J. T. Cobb:  
Thinking it might be of interest to some of the readers of the VISITOR to know how Danville Grange, No. 54, is prospering, I will give you a brief sketch of our meetings. I have the pleasure of reporting to you that it now wears the aspect of coming prosperity. Most of the members have gone to work with the determination to make this Grange a success, and are reaping their reward. At almost every meeting we receive new applications for members. We have admitted thirteen new members since the election of new officers. We have now about sixty active members. Our meetings are held once a week. We could not think of holding them farther apart. We aim to make the Grange a success socially as well as financially, and I think we have succeeded. Hon. Thos. Moore, of Adrian, installed our officers, and addressed us on the work of the Order, and what it had accomplished in the past. He did the members much good, and by the favorable comments I have heard, the address made a very good impression on those who heard it outside the Order. Please find enclosed money for three copies of your highly prized paper, the GRANGE VISITOR, which you will send to Lanson Hill, Dansville, Ingham Co., Mich.; Willard Hendrick, Hamburg, Livingston Co., Mich.; and John M. Carr, Mason, Mich. We think your paper grows better, and if all Patrons would take and read it, we should not have so many dormant Granges.

Having the best interests of the Order at heart, I remain  
Your friend,  
A. D. O.  
Elsie Grange, No. 202.

Bro. Cobb:  
Elsie Grange is still in a flourishing condition, with an active membership of about seventy-five, who are fully determined to stick to the Grange and its principles. These are the remains after having gone through the sifting process. We hold our meetings every Monday evening, in a neat and commodious hall belonging to the Odd Fellows of this place, where we debate various topics of interest, and enjoy the society of our Brothers and Sisters. We have also a paper, edited and read every week by Bro. Lewis Clark, which adds interest to our meetings. We are making up an order for a bill of groceries from G. W. Hill & Co.; we received a car load of plaster of excellent quality from Day & Taylor in its season. We are trying to do our part in the great struggle for independence, and are looking for the day when the farmer shall be placed on an equal footing with the rest of his fellow-men. Fraternally yours,  
SECRETARY.

**Fremont Grange, No. 494.**

Bro. J. T. Cobb:  
I have received several numbers of the GRANGE VISITOR and like it very much. I sent you the names of six subscribers last week, and I am trying to get more. Our Grange is in a prosperous condition. We have had six new members since the first of January, and there are several more who think of joining. I have not been a member a great while, but I am well pleased with the Order thus far; I think every farmer should belong to the Grange.  
C. E. STEARNS, Sec'y.  
June 5, 1880.

**Communications.**

**How to be Benefitted by the Grange.**

Muir, May 31st, 1880.  
Bro. J. T. Cobb:

As some Patrons are in the habit of finding fault with the Grange, because of their not receiving any benefit financially, I would express through the VISITOR an opinion concerning the subject.

Now, I think the fault is entirely with themselves, because they do not improve the chances they have furnished them by the State Grange in establishing an agency for the purchase and sale of every article the Patron produces or consumes, consequently he can purchase at wholesale rates all that is necessary for his consumption, and get the highest market price for all the products of the farm by paying a trifling commission.

Now, my advice to all such complaining Patrons is this, if you have a local agency, do not use it for a machine to reduce the price of goods of the dealers in the towns which are handy to you. But support the agency. And if you have none, I would advise Patrons in this State to send their orders to Geo. W. Hill & Co., of Detroit, with whom I have had considerable dealing, and have every reason to believe they will deal with you fairly and squarely. Then will you have occasion to rejoice that you belong to the Grange, and are receiving financial benefits.

P. L. CHARLES.

**All the Way from Manistee.**

MARILLA, Manistee Co., Mich.,  
May 30th, 1880.

Worthy Sec. J. T. Cobb:

Our Grange now numbers forty-three members; we meet every two weeks, and the time is spent in discussions, in reading a paper called the *Grange Bugle*, and reading essays, etc. We live in the "woods," back thirty miles from any railroad, so you see we only have our mail to depend upon for gossip. As the VISITOR, in its correspondence, has a good deal to say about a farmer for Governor, so I say, give us a farmer by all means, but let us be careful to put the right man on the ticket, so as not to have him defeated.

Though I am still in favor of that, I am still more in favor of sending men to our Legislatures, both National and State, who not only are farmers, but men who have been tried and found true, not only to us, but to the best interests of the working class generally.

Then let us, as Grangers, rally to see that at our nominating Conventions such men are nominated, and when election day comes, don't let us say, "It won't make any odds if I do stay at home," but let each and every farmer especially see to it that he is at the polls with a clean "Laboring Man's Ticket," to work for its election. Now, Patrons, arise in your strength, and send a Woodman to Congress, a Childs to Lansing as Governor, a Luce as Lieut. Governor, and so on down to our County officers, from such, as I have said, we have tried.

Yours, as ever,  
JAMES H. WINANS.

**A Plea for the Snake.**

BERRIEN CENTRE, Mich., June 7.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I notice a short piece in the VISITOR, taken from the Jackson *Citizen*, headed "Don't Kill the Birds," warning boys that the laws of Michigan protect all native song birds. Boys have been warned of this law ever since it was passed, yet they go on killing birds just the same—paying no attention to the law. Now, my idea is, we should make no laws that cannot be enforced, and should enforce all laws that are made. The law protecting birds is a good one and should be enforced. If one boy in every neighborhood were made to pay a fine for killing birds, I think that would be sufficient.

So much for the birds: now I want

to say a few words for the snake. Our lawyer law-makers passed a law to protect all birds that can sing. Unfortunately the snake can't sing, and all his other good qualities were overlooked, for they were of no use to the lawyer. But when we get a few more farmers in our Legislature, I hope they will cultivate a better acquaintance with the snake, and study his habits and see if he is not useful to the farmer—though he can't sing.

It is my opinion that one striped snake will destroy more worms and bugs than three singing birds, and he is always down on the ground, where the worms and bugs are doing the most damage. I have watched the striped snake in a potato patch following the row from one hill to another, picking off the bugs until it appeared to me that he had eaten more than his hide would hold. Of course there are a few snakes whose bite is poisonous: such should be killed. But a large proportion of the snakes in this State are perfectly harmless and are very useful to the farmer.

Therefore, I say, brother farmers, don't kill the little striped snake, but when you find one, put it in your potato patch, and you will have no occasion to use Paris green.

J. J. M.

Berrien Centre Grange, No. 14.

**"Walk Into My Parlor."**

We are now under the necessity of advertising a Bible offer. Free. We are in receipt of the plate, and the liberal-minded gentleman who is engineering the scheme, is anxious to pay us for inserting it in our columns. But we are not to be outdone in liberality, so we positively decline to accept his money.

We will advertise his Bibles, however, and even go to the trouble of writing the advertisement ourselves. N. W. Hunt, Philadelphia, Pa., is the individual who wants us to tell the poor people that, if they will send him seventy-five cents, just to pay expenses, he will send them "a copy of the Holy Bible." Well, we can do better than that, right here in Chicago. We can send "a copy of the Holy Bible" for fifty cents, and we think less. It would not be much of a Bible, and that is probably what is the matter with Mr. Hunt's Bible. He does not vouchsafe the very desirable information as to what sort of a Bible he proposes to give for the small amount requested for the payment of expenses. It is true that Mr. Hunt begins his advertisement with a cut and an elaborate description of a beautiful copy of the Holy Bible, which he says sold last year for \$15. We do not doubt it at all; and we shouldn't wonder if it was up to sixteen dollars this year. If that is the Bible, Mr. Hunt, which you are going to give for seventy-five cents, give us your money, and in goes your advertisement. But, Mr. Hunt, that is not the Bible you propose to give. You cunningly follow the description of this elegant Bible with the following:

MY SPECIAL OFFER.—In order to introduce our Bibles, we agree, upon the receipt of seventy-five cents, to pay postage and other expenses, to send any reader of this paper a copy of the *Holy Bible*. This offer is good for 60 days only, and appears but once. Only two Bibles sent to one person. Remit currency or two or three cent stamps at our risk. A rich field for agents. Order now.

Mr. Hunt, you mean to convey the impression that you are going to send the Bible which you describe in the beginning of your advertisement for seventy-five cents, but you do not say so, and you do not mean to do it. We do not want your advertisement, we do not want your money, or your Bible, and we want nothing to do with you.—*Ex.*

**Useful Maxims for Farmers.**

A farm without water, however fertile, is yet a desert.  
Never eat yourself until your animals suffer with cold and hunger.  
No farmer can afford to let his animals suffer with cold and hunger.  
As a rule avoid investing largely in things that are untried.  
Never purchase a thing simply because it is new.  
It is better to be a tenant free from debt than to own mortgaged farm.  
The most dreadful thing to put on a farm is a mortgage.  
Plenty of light and sun are essential to all domesticated animals as food.  
Pure air is the most valuable, for its cost, of all our necessities.  
Mixed husbandry is the most profitable, provided one knows how to mix it; but unless there is judgment, experience, and skill in the mixture, it will not combine to profit, but as the chemists say, it will "precipitate." Then stand from under.—*Dirigo.*

THE Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad has \$2,000,000 in cash now on hand.

**A Medicine Not Patented.**

A gentleman whose symptoms and failing health gave cause for serious alarm, make arrangements to spend the present winter in some one of the Southern States. His cough was so severe as to prevent attendance at church or other public gatherings, while the labor of ascending two or three flights of stairs exhausted both breath and strength. Loss of appetite, and other indications, seemed to point to a cessation from business, and a change of climate, as the only hope of recovery. A few weeks before his intended departure, his attention was somehow called to a new specific, which in his case seems to have proved a remedy. The "medicine," which may be obtained for a trifle at almost any hardware store, is simply common tarred twine, so extensively used in packing, where strength and durability are required. The manner of using is to cut the twine into pieces about three-fourths of an inch in length, placing a piece in the mouth as often as may be necessary to keep from coughing. The tar is extracted by chewing, and the action of the saliva, thus comes in contact with the diseased organs, or source of irritation.

It is well known that tar pine is an important constituent in many throat and lung medicines, and this cheap and original method of using it may also be obtained for the most effective. In point of cleanliness, and freedom from objectionable ingredients, this would doubtless rank with the best of our prepared medicines.

In the case of the individual alluded to above, no other medicine has been used for the past few months, and instead of spending time and means abroad in search of health, he is still at home pursuing his usual avocation, so much improved as to be comparatively well, his cough having nearly ceased, while his usual appetite, as well as ordinary flesh and strength, have been regained.

**The Arithmetic Lesson.**

Several men were gathered at the door of a blacksmith shop on Cass avenue the other morning, when a school boy not over nine years of age came along with tears in his eyes, and one of the group asked, "What's the matter, boy,—fall down?" "No, but I've got a hard 'rithmetic lesson, and I expect to get l-licked!" was the answer. "Let me see, I used to be king-bee on fractions." The man took the book, turned to the page and read, "Rule 1. Find the least common multiple of the denominators of the fractions for the least common denominator. Divide this least common denominator by each denominator and multiply both terms of the fractions by the quotient obtained by each denominator." He read the rule aloud, and asked if any one could understand it. All shook their heads, and he then continued: "Well, now, I think I should go to work and discover the least uncommon agitator. I would then evolve a parallel according to the intrinsic deviator and punctuate the thermometer." "So would I!" answered every man in chorus, and one of them added, "I've worked 'em out that way a thousand times!" Not one of the men, all of whom were in business and had made money, could even understand the working of the rule, much less work examples by it; and yet it is expected that a little nine-year old boy should go to the black-board, and do every sum off hand.—*Detroit Free Press.*

"IF I ONLY HAD CAPITAL."—"If I only had capital," we heard a young man say as he pushed away at a ten-cent cigar, "I would do something." "If I only had capital," said another, "as he walked away from the dram shop where he had just paid ten cents for a drink, "I would go into business."

The same remark might have been heard from the young man loafing on the street corner. "Young man, throw a cigar, you are smoking away your capital. You from the dram shop are drinking away yours, and destroying your body at the same time, and you upon the street corner are wasting yours in idleness and forming bad habits. Dimes make dollars. Don't wait for a fortune to begin with. If you had ten thousand dollars a year, and spent it all, you would be poor still. Our men of power and influence did not start with fortunes. You, too, can make your mark, if you will. But you must stop spending your money for what you don't need, and squandering your time in idleness."

A TOURIST in Brittany asked an old woman who was peddling crosses and medals at a church porch, the price of a certain trinket. "Is it for your wife or your sweetheart?" she inquired. "For my sweetheart," replied the tourist, not precisely seeing the drift of the question. "Ten francs." "Ten francs—pshaw!" said he turning on his heel. "Come back, come back," cried the old woman, "take it for three. You've been lying to me, though. You have no sweetheart. If it had been for her, you'd have bought it at once, without any regard to the price." "I'll take it—here are your three francs." "You haven't a wife, either; if it had been for her, you'd beaten me down to two francs. Oh, you men, you men!



## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, JUNE 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.

## OUR NEXT GOVERNOR.

We have had too much to do in the last month to read newspapers, and get well posted about State politics. But last week when we were over to the Agricultural College we met gentlemen from different parts of the State, and in answer to inquiries, we found the prevailing opinion was that the name of Hon. Thos. Palmer, of Detroit, was at the head of the slate, as arranged by an influential branch of the managers of Republican politics in this State. And we farther understood that Mr. Palmer's great wealth was being freely used to pave the way, and secure the lead in this race for position. Well, we are glad to know that Mr. Palmer is so well fixed that he can afford to be Governor. There are quite a good many competent men in the State that if elected would not be able to make much display—couldn't give receptions, or do any thing very handsome outside of the salary fixed by the Constitution.

Now, it is well understood that when a man seeks office, his character and conduct become the property of the people whose interests are affected by his election, and the right to examine and dissect a man's record, in so far as it has in any way affected the public interest, is everywhere conceded.

Michigan has had some able Governors, some more efficient than others, but we apprehend that few States can show a better executive record than this, and when any man seeks this position, where his individual will directs to some extent, the affairs of a great State, we must know that his past record gives promise that if permitted to guide the ship of State for a couple of years or more, that economy, honesty, and efficiency will characterize his administration.

When we presented this subject in the *Visitor* of Nov. 15th, 1879, and insisted that it was due the farmers of this State that the next Governor of Michigan should be selected from the agricultural class, we based our claim on the fact that within the last few years an extraordinary effort had been made to improve and elevate the farmer class. We claimed that it is the mission of the Grange to educate farmers to a higher plane, not only in the direct line of their profession, but in every other direction where their interests are involved, and we think upon the simple question of the rightfulness of the demand, there is no room for dispute, for in all these years since the organization of a State government in this agricul-

tural State, have we had but one farmer for Governor.

We have no patience with the nonsense that farmers have no time to attend to anything but their farming, and should let politics alone.

The agricultural interests of this country are more important than any other, and give employment to more than one half of our people, and to suppose that our rights will be as well secured if left to the care of men of other professions, is to disregard the plainest dictates of common sense, and the uniform experience of mankind.

We repeat what we have said more than once before, that we do not claim for farmers all honesty, or believe that if all governmental matters were committed to the "honest farmer," the people would at once be safe from vicious legislation, and saved from many known evils that attach to our present condition.

But the farmers of the State have made a great advance within the last few years, and in no State in the Union can better material be found among the farmers for official position high or low than in Michigan, and we ask for them that recognition and participation in every department of government, to which they are entitled, by numbers, by qualification, and by material interests. Will this claim be regarded by politicians? Probably not. Just the other day, in the selection of delegates to the Chicago Convention by the dominant party in this State, the farmers were ignored altogether, although they will be depended on for votes in November to elect Palmer, or some other lawyer for Governor, and a full delegation of lawyers to Congress, who, if the past indicates the future, will treat the great agriculture interest of the United States as of no consequence whatever.

It is high time the farmers of this country come to understand that there is not another first-class government on the face of the earth that treats its agricultural affairs so niggardly and meanly, as does the Congress of the United States, composed as it is of 75 per cent of lawyers.

Shall this state of things continue? Will the intelligent farmers of Michigan continue to stultify themselves, as they have heretofore done. We think not. We think the Hon. Thos. Palmer will get all the good out of his investments in anticipation. He cannot reach the reality, for as we stated at the outset the record of the office seeker is public property and we incline to the opinion that, good fellow as he is, he should have been satisfied to enjoy his gains, rather than provoke scrutiny into his business life by seeking the highest office in the gift of the people.

The politicians must be educated, and we expect the farmers of Michigan to give them some salutary lessons this year.

BRO. WM. L. VAN DYKE represents Olive Grange, No. 358, as in a healthy condition, as is also the Pomona Grange of Clinton Co., of which he is a member.

## AN ANNUAL MEETING AT THE STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

In compliance with an invitation from the State Board of Agriculture we met with the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society, the Executive Committee of the State Pomological Society and the Executive Committee of the State Grange, on the Agricultural College grounds on the 10th inst.

This meeting of Executive Committees created to promote and develop the agricultural resources of the State was the second of the kind, the first having occurred in June, 1879, and from the cordial feeling exhibited and the friendly sentiments expressed by the gentlemen present, it would seem to be but the beginning of a series of annual meetings of these representative bodies.

The Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society had quarters at the Hudson House, and held a business meeting on the evening of the 9th in a parlor of the House.

The members of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, present, also stopped at the Hudson House, while the Executive Committee of the Pomological Society had their headquarters at the Goodrich House.

Provision was also made by the State Board of Agriculture for transportation, and soon after 9 o'clock on the 10th, all the gentlemen of the several societies were on the ground.

Brief speeches of welcome were made by Pres. Wells of the State Board of Agriculture, and President Abbott of the College faculty. Each expressed a desire that the gentlemen present should examine every department of the College, criticise its professional work, its farm-work, its management, its condition, its stock, the crops and every thing to be seen about the premises.

The gentlemen were invited here to become better acquainted with the work done and were cordially invited to supplement their examination with criticisms and suggestions.

Notice was given that the bell would ring at 11, and at 12 o'clock, at which time dinner would be served in the dining hall.

President Abbott then introduced the Hon. Samuel Johnson, the gentleman who has charge of the stock and practical farming of the institution, and under his guidance the visitors started out on a tour of inspection.

As the State Grange have a standing Committee on the Agricultural College, and that committee were present and expected to continue their examination to another day, we shall not undertake to speak for them or in any way anticipate their report which will be made in due time in a regular way.

Reporters from the *Post and Tribune*, *Free Press*, *Evening News*, and *Michigan Farmer*, of Detroit, and W. S. George, of the Lansing *Republican*, were present, and in their issues of the next day appeared very full reports, all indicating a favorable verdict from all parties to this examination.

At the hour designated, dinner was served and partaken of with excellent relish by the whole company, the college boys eating at the same time, and apparently enjoyed this unusual gathering around their own tables.

Gen. Lee, President of the State Agricultural College of Mississippi, was present, and before leaving the table, was called on for some remarks by Hon. Philo Parsons, of Detroit, who presided with the ease and efficiency of an expert. In answer to his call, brief speeches were made by the Rev. J. W. Hough, of Jackson, who has two sons in this College; by Mr. Wm. Ball, a successful farmer of Hamburg; by Sentors Childs, of Ypsilanti; Chamberlain, of Three Oaks; and Thomas F. Moore, of Adrian. The general drift of these speeches was commendatory of the institution, and in favor of that practical education which associates manual labor, under intelligent direction, with the education of the schools.

From the table, an adjournment was had to the chapel, at three o'clock, and the intervening time employed in visiting the green house and the horticultural department, in charge of Prof. Beal. The proceedings at the chapel, consisted of brief speeches from Bro. F. M. Holloway, of Hillsdale, T. T. Lyon, and C. W. Garfield, of the State Pomological Society, Editors George, of the Lansing *Republican*, and Johnston, of the *Michigan Farmer*, and others.

Mr. J. C. Holmes, first Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, and always a fast friend of the College, described at some length his efforts in its behalf to secure legislation that made its existence possible, and expressed himself highly pleased with the results of these twenty-five years since the location of this College was made.

The students took a lively interest in the proceedings, and evinced their approbation of every good thing said of the College by a hearty clapping of hands, and from all we saw in the school-room and elsewhere on the grounds, we concluded that the right kind of feeling and relationship existed between the professors and their pupils.

At a meeting of the Committee of the State Agricultural Society, held in the evening, Mr. Parsons, expressed the sense of the Committee, by the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"That the Executive Committee of the Agricultural Society of the State of Michigan, have pleasure in commending to the farmers, mechanics, business and professional men of Michigan the Agricultural College as a fit place for the education of their sons, free from many of the temptations to which youth is exposed in large towns and capable of ensuring to them a thorough education, giving them at the same time a practical knowledge, physical culture, habits of industry, right views of life and its responsibilities."

The views of the Executive Board of the State Pomological Society were incorporated into the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, At the invitation of the State Board of Agriculture, through President Abbot, the Executive Board of the State Pomological Society have been permitted to participate with the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society and that of the State

Grange, in a visit to the State Agricultural College and an examination of the farm, gardens, grounds together with an exhibit of some of the processes through which its practical operations in these departments are made to do duty in the process of instruction,—therefore

Resolved, That we desire to express the highest appreciation, not only of the work accomplished in the collection, growth and arrangement of the fruits, trees and plants here brought together, and of the great care with which they are named and arranged for the training of classes and the affording information to visitors, but also of the judgment and thorough care manifest in their employment in the ornamentation of the College grounds;

Resolved, That to us it is a matter of surprise that so much has been so well and thoroughly accomplished by the Board and the Faculty with the comparatively limited means at their disposal, and with so moderate a teaching and supervisory force;

Resolved, That we very highly appreciate the valuable volunteer aid received by this society from time to time, in the prosecution of its work, from the Faculty of the College;

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks extended by the Board of Agriculture and Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society, the professors and their assistants at the Agricultural College.

Resolved, That we heartily recommend the College to the horticulturalists of our State, as an institution worthy of their earnest support.

We referred to Gen. S. D. Lee, of Mississippi, who, with his wife, have been guests of Pres. Abbott, for several days.

His mission North is to become acquainted with the Agricultural Colleges of the country. After having visited nearly all, and become somewhat familiar with their course of study and working machinery, he pronounces in favor of the Agricultural College of Michigan, as presenting the best developed system, and most thorough work of any, and from what we saw of the gentleman, and heard of his examination of each department of the College, we were satisfied that his judgment was based on a very careful enquiry.

He has not been satisfied with a walk over the ground, and a pleasant talk with the several professors, but he spent hours in questioning, and in critical enquiry in each department of the institution.

And he has confirmed his expressed opinion as to the superiority of the Michigan Agricultural College by employing two of its graduates to teach in the Agricultural College of Mississippi.

We were sorry not to have met Bros. Woodman, Luce, and Saterlee, of the Executive Committee, at Lansing. The other members of the Committee, had an informal meeting while on the College grounds at which it was determined to accept an invitation from the Ingham County Grange, to hold the Annual State picnic, authorized by the State Grange, at its last session, on the Ingham County Fair grounds, and August 12th was fixed upon as the time.

We were instructed to make arrangement for transportation, with the railroads touching Lansing, and shall give the matter early attention.

With this early notice at a point so easily reached, we shall expect a big gathering of Patrons at that time.

Our trip to the Agricultural College was very satisfactory, and we left Lansing with the impression that the Farmers' College was gaining in friends every day.

TWENTY-FIVE cents pays for the VISITOR for the last seven months of the year.



**STATE GRANGE BY-LAWS.**

As soon as practicable after the last session of the State Grange we had a thousand copies of the State Grange By-Laws printed, as amended, and in force. It was deemed advisable to have bound with the By-Laws the Declaration of Purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry, adopted by the National Grange at its Seventh annual session, the Constitution of the National Grange, the code of By-Laws recommended for adoption by County and Subordinate Granges; and these were incorporated in the first edition. The improved condition of the Order in the State, or other cause created such a demand that this first thousand were all sold and gone before the middle of April.

It had been necessary to have prepared a code of rules and regulations for trials in Subordinate Granges, and it was deemed advisable to add this code to the contents of the first edition, and the delay in getting out the second edition and filling orders which had been on our books for two months has been made necessary that the committee, Bros. Woodman and Whitney, having the matter in charge, might be able to give the matter the requisite attention.

With the various and pressing duties devolving upon this committee it was impossible to have the whole completed at an earlier day.

This revised edition is a pamphlet of over 50 pages, with an index and blank leaves inserted for amendments when made by any competent authority, and probably embraces more Grange law and other valuable matter in a compact form than any other compilation ever published.

The added matter has increased the cost and of course has compelled us to advance the price to ten cents for single copies, and 75 cents per dozen.

We have just received the books from the printer and shall fill all orders at once.

**REVISED MANUALS.**

The circular from Secretary Ireland, found on another page, makes answer to much inquiry that has been made within the last year. We have had an order on file in Secretary Ireland's office for a long time for these revised manuals, and as soon as the books are received, shall fill orders on our book.

It will be noticed that the price has been fixed by the Executive Committee of the National Grange, and is an advance over the price of the old edition.

**SECRETARY'S QUARTERLY REPORTS.**

Blanks for reports will be sent before the close of the current quarter to all Secretaries who have reported for the quarter ending March 31st, 1880.

We assume that those who have not sent to this office their report for that quarter have blanks in their possession, but have neglected to use them. We shall be glad to supply on application any who, from any cause, have no blanks for this purpose.

**E. BEMENT & SONS.**

While in Lansing, we dropped into the agricultural works of E. Bement & Sons. Found the establishment in a prosperous condition. Plows have been a specialty with this concern, but they are doing a large business in plow points for all makes of plows, as well as their own, making about 500 per day. The company employ 90 men, using over four tons of iron daily.

They are now making a spring tooth harrow, which they will sell to Patrons without requiring that they run the gauntlet of the old agency system. See their advertisement on our last page.

When Bro. Woodman turned over to us the management of the VISITOR on our return from California, he placed in our hands a mass of communications that had accumulated on his hands, and from its amount we were quite sure then, as now, that some of them would not be likely to get into print soon.

We have been looking them over, and find some things that will keep even in weather that is warmer than any we have had this year. These we have laid away for future use.

BRO. H. W. MILLER writes from Washington, Macomb County, that he has been informed that in some parts of the State, parties are collecting royalty on drive wells, and raises the question, "would it not be well for the Executive Committee of the State Grange, and for County Granges, to take some action so as to compel the sharpers to fight them as a body?" We think that if the report were true, the slide gate lesson has been so recently learned that no Granger will pay royalty until required by process of law.

**Notices of Meetings.**

The next meeting of the Clinton Co. Pomona Grange will be held at the hall of Dallas Grange, on Wednesday, June 23d, at 11 o'clock A. M. All are cordially invited to attend.

FRANK CONN, Secretary.

Extra session of Van Buren County Grange, held with Woodman Grange, June 17th, 1880. All 4th degree members cordially invited, and a good time expected.

C. B. CHARLES, Sec.

BURR OAK, July 10, 1880.

Editor Grange Visitor: St. Joseph County Grange will hold its next meeting at White Pigeon, Thursday, July 29th, a cordial invitation is extended to all Fourth degree members. It was decided best to postpone the quarterly meeting which comes on July 1st.

Fraternally yours,  
CHAS. W. SHELDON, Sec.

**Official Circular.**

Department of State,  
LANSING, June 9th, 1880.

To the Supervisor: Crop and stock reports received at this office from 815 townships show that there were 1,580,926 sheep sheared in 1879, yielding 8,213,554 pounds of wool. This is an average of 5 1-5 pounds per head. The reports also show that the number of sheep in the same townships in 1880 was 1,632,626, which is 3.27 per cent more than the number sheared in 1879. If there has been a corresponding increase in the remaining 232 townships, there will be 1,830,266 sheep sheared in the State the present year, and the total clip at the above average per head will be 9,517,383 pounds. Very respectfully,

WM. JENNY,  
Secretary of State.

**Lecturer's Department.**

**Pickings by the Way, No. 10.**

Home, with its pleasures and duties, has claimed our attention for a time, but a new hall to be dedicated, and a meeting of the Western Pomona Grange, No. 19, on the 27th and 28th of May, called us to Ravenna, in Muskegon County. This Grange, like many others, had been prosperous with a sort of spurious, mushroom prosperity that fades and vanishes in the trying heat of adversity, and had been reduced in numbers, in consequence of a thorough house-cleaning, to at one time barely enough to hold their charter; yet this few, strong in faith, learned "to labor and to wait." They began to build a hall, and slowly but earnestly these few worked and gained now and then an addition of a member, until they saw their cherished hopes realized, their hall completed, and the Western Pomona Grange entitled to hold their May meeting in it, and assist in its dedication. By train to Cooperville, and stage ten miles to Ravenna, we found on coming in sight that a successful meeting was to be held, as we saw the signs all about the building and grounds. Teams and people in profusion everywhere.

"Too late for dinner," was the first sounds we heard, but then we knew they always had two tables at such places, and an entirely new program at each, so we felt quite satisfied to wait a little, and had enough and more at the second table. Bro. Mickley, was on hand and ready to labor, either in eating or speaking, as usual. Before the dinner had fairly ended, the hall became well filled. The members of the Order, in regalia, repaired to the church near by, and formed in procession in the proper order, and proceeded to the hall. Extra seats were then brought in, until every available sitting place was in use. The ceremony of dedication, well executed, was impressive and instructive to all present, and made a good impression upon all. We closed this service by a brief address upon the work of the Order, and its progress in this State. Bro. Mickley was then introduced, and made one of his very forcible addresses upon the needs of the agriculturists, and how the Grange helps to supply those needs. The music, though somewhat extempore, was very good indeed, and aided much to make the occasion pleasant and interesting to all.

A recess for supper enabled us to look around and see what we had done, and who had helped. The hall is a two story building, high between floors and ceiling, 50x54 feet, is well lighted, and has convenient ante-rooms, etc. The lower rooms are used for general purposes, miscellaneous meetings, dining hall, &c. A short time, and this Grange will be able to erect sheds for the horses, and build a fence to enclose and protect their grounds. Supper was served as the dinner, after which the Western Pomona Grange conferred the beautiful and impressive lessons of the 5th degree upon a class of sixteen members, and the Grange labors closed for the day, and the numbers of visiting members went somewhere to rest for the night—and there were many—twelve Subordinate Granges being represented.

Thursday morning the 28th called Bro. Mickley, Worthy Master Nathan Whitney and wife, and self to break our fast with Bro. Smith, W. L. of Ravenna Grange, at the well-kept farm-house of Mr. and Mrs. A. Rogers. At a morning session of the Pomona Grange much business was transacted, and a lengthy discussion upon the political duty of the farmer,

in which all agreed that the farmer must be independent of party, and the politics of the day as now constituted. It is the farmer's right and duty to ask for what he wants, and then working together take what is his by right.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Ravenna Grange for this cordial reception and entertainment, and the next meeting of the Pomona Grange was ordered to take place on the 10th of June at Georgetown Grange, south of Grand River. Dinner was also given at the hall to-day as yesterday, and then in company with Bros. Mickley and Wilde, and Sister Wilde, we went to Cooperville, where Bro. Mickley and self took cars for Grand Rapids, he to go thence home, and we to return home next morning.

Since the above meeting we learn from members of Ravenna Grange that they had eleven applications at their last meeting, and will give the first degree to thirteen candidates at their next. The harvest is begun. The reward of the faithful is sure. Let other weak, failing Granges "go and do likewise." "A word to the wise is sufficient."

From Ravenna we reach home again, only to get ready for Decoration Day, celebrated with much preparation and elaborate display by our townsmen, every soldier's grave in our large City Cemetery being well remembered.

June 1st, the opening of the beautiful mouth of roses and small fruits came, and approaching appointments called us from home. In company with the Worthy Ceres of the State Grange, we made the pleasant village of Schoolcraft, to be most heartily welcomed by Bro. and Worthy Secretary Cobb, who met us at the train, and at whose home and board we soon refreshed ourselves. Bro. and Sister Cobb return from their trip to the western sun much rested and refreshed in body and mind, if not in estate.

A night's rest and an early ride to Kalamazoo with Bro. Cobb, we saw in progress the closing work of issuing our revised or second edition of By-Laws, etc. The afternoon spent in the office gives us many facts and figures of value to us, and sooner or later to the Order.

BEDFORD, NO. 65.

At 2 o'clock A. M. of June 3d, we rubbed our eyes at the Chicago and Grand Trunk depot at Schoolcraft to hit an old and condemned freight car—shut up at that. Soon, however, we were on our way to Battle Creek, en route for Bedford Grange. We reach the end of our railroad ride in safety and rested until an earnest Bro. Patron came for us to go to the field of the day's labor.

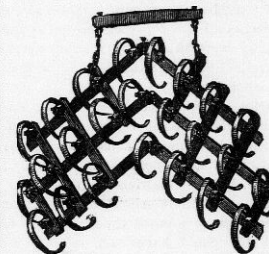
Bedford Grange, No. 65, is the first one organized in Calhoun County, and has just completed a fine hall in which the Grange may have a home. This hall is ample in size and appointment, two stories in height, the lower rooms being used for dining, store, and dressing rooms and the upper story being the hall proper. Even before we reached, others had arrived. At noon a goodly number were on hand to enjoy the social and material feast, and lighten the ever loaded tables. The first degree lessons were conferred upon two earnest candidates, then came dinner, after which the hall was filled to hear the public address, which was listened to with attention, and well received, to all appearance, by the many from without, as well as those within, the gates. At the close we took twelve subscriptions to the VISITOR, mostly of those who had never taken it.

Tea was served at the homes of Patrons near by, and the chores being done, the hall was again filled to listen to suggestions for the good of the Order, and a talk upon the beautiful and impressive teachings of the degrees and unwritten work of the Order. At a late hour we said good by, and rode away from the scene of the days' labor, to the home of a friend and relative, near by, to spend the night.

PROF. COOK, of the Agricultural College, has been tendered an appointment by the government on a commission to investigate the ravages of injurious insects in the West. He has not decided to accept, it being difficult to provide for his college duties during his absence.—*Lansing Republican.*

Isn't it a shame that the press of the country, which should be the power to unearth wrong, and expose fraud and swindling of every kind, has practically gone into partnership with all the swindlers of the country? It is an unquestionable fact that more than nine-tenths of all the papers in the country will sell their advertising columns to any swindler who will pay the price, and what is that but entering into partnership with the swindler.—*Ex.*

**THE BUR OAK ADJUSTABLE**



**Cultivator Harrow**

Has more spring in the teeth than in any other; is more durable; it has no slots in the wood to wear out; the teeth cannot move side ways; it has the BEST ADJUSTABLE TOOTH ATTACHMENT; does not trail. Will work harder ground than any other. The teeth are all warranted. Send for Price List to the manufacturer.

HIRAM COBB,  
KALAMAZOO, MICH.

**Horse Nets.**

THEY ALL USE THEM!  
They save Feed, save Horse-flesh, and save the Driver a good deal of Annoyance. Made of heavy 16-thread seine Twine. Good for Farm Use. Send for Sample and Price-List under Seal of Grange, and patronize a brother Granger.

JOSEPH SHAW,  
CHARLOTTE, MICH.

**THE AGRICULTURAL WORLD,**

A HANDSOME SIXTEEN PAGE WEEKLY. IT IS THE ONLY AGRICULTURAL PAPER IN THE STATE OUTSIDE OF DETROIT.

The Agricultural World market reports are fuller and more reliable than can be found in any other paper published in Western Michigan.

The Household Department is in the hands of a practical housekeeper, and is carefully and ably conducted.

Many of the ablest farmers and writers of Western Michigan are regular contributors to the World, and these practical, everyday letters are alone worth more than the subscription price of the paper. The Grange interests and Grange news form a special feature, and are at all times fully represented. The series of articles now running entitled "Farmers' Relation to Law," being an exhaustive treatise of the law of highways, titles, fences, drainage, estuaries, patent-rights, etc., etc., are well worth five times the subscription price of the paper (\$1.00). Every farmer in the State should read these articles. The duties of township officers are clearly pointed out, and all law questions relating to Agricultural pursuits fully explained.

The publishers will send to trial subscribers during the months of May and June as follows: for three months, 25 cents; or in clubs of five or more, 20 cents each.

F. M. CARROLL & CO.,  
52 CANAL STREET, - GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.



## Ladies' Department.

## WANTS.

We women want so many things—  
And first we call for happiness—  
The careless boon the hour brings,  
The smile, the song, and the caress.

And when the fancy dies, we cry,  
Nay, give us one on whom to spend  
Our heart's desire. When love goes by  
With folded wings we seek a friend.

And then our children come, to prove  
Our hearts but slumbered, and can wake;  
And when we go, we're fain to love  
Some other woman's for their sake.

But when both love and friendship fail,  
We call for duty, work to do;  
Some end to gain beyond the pale  
Of self, some height to journey to.

And then before our task is done,  
With sudden weariness oppressed,  
We leave the shining goal unwon,  
And only ask for rest.

—Atlantic Monthly.

## Common Schools.

Doubtless every person here present will allow that the subject of our common schools is one of grave weight and importance, becoming yearly more complex and difficult of solution. The time was, when, in the old log school-house or the more aristocratic frame one—with its desks and benches running around the margin of the room—that children went to school, and, after a few terms, were given to society—not indeed highly educated, but with the foundations of a good education laid deep and broad. On this, every day of their lives they could build—having been taught to *think and reason*—and many were the goodly mental structures which were the reaping of fruit sown in those old houses.

But, although we all admit the importance of the subject when it is mentioned, how many of us show by our actions that we believe what we say? True, in most districts there is a neat, tidy, comfortable school-building, that would have seemed the ultimatum of all that could have been wished for in a school-house, to those of "ye olden time." This is all as it should be; the school-room cannot be made too pleasant: but it can be treated like the "spare room" of most houses—furnished nicely and shut up, *i. e.*, not lived in every day.

No good farmer but visits his stock every day; he knows by personal inspection that his horses, cattle, sheep and hogs are all well cared for, that they want for nothing; even his poultry is not passed by, and the "setting hen" is not considered beneath his notice, especially if her time is being given to some fancy eggs, for which he has paid two or three dollars per dozen. But where are the *children* of these farm houses, and what are they doing? How often during the day or the week, or even the term, do we let the question have serious consideration, and go and see to it personally? How many times a year do we enter the door of the school room for a friendly visit, to see just what they are doing, and observe for ourselves how the house is kept and taken care of; how the school work is going on; how much progress has been made since our last visit, etc.? We pay our taxes cheerfully, as we ought, for the common school is, or should be, the safety of the State and community: but after this is done, I fear we spend little time or thought upon the subject, and, like every other thing which we put out of our own hands, into those of strangers and hirelings, it is neglected, and our children, the fairest and most precious of all our "farm products," are not growing up as we hoped they would, exactly. So, although we pay our taxes without grudging, we should give them more freely if we felt we were getting in return our full money's worth. Somehow, we feel that the returns are not as great nor of as good quality as years ago; and we feel dissatisfied and grumble. But we do not go deep enough and find the root and foundation of the evil. Let us dig down just a little to-day, and it may be we shall strike a lead which will indicate some of the causes of the

trouble. If I am not mistaken, I think we will find the trouble lies with both teachers and patrons, but *mostly* with ourselves. We can have the matter in our own hands if we will; for teachers will be just what they *must* be to get situations, and we, who employ them, *have the right, and ought* to exercise it, of saying whether or not this standard of excellence shall be lowered.

Let us compare a school-room of forty years ago with one of to-day, and try to get at a part of the difficulty. Then, a school-numbered forty pupils—I have myself enrolled ninety. All of us know that those thickly settled districts, in New England and New York, in the regions of small farms, could turn out many more children to the square mile than our broader farm districts west of them. There were all grades among these children—everything from the "A, B, C" and primer up through Sander's Readers to Porter's Rhetorical, which was then considered the acme of all that could be attained in a reading book. Emerson's First and Second Parts, Adams' Practical Arithmetic, with Colburn's Mental for thorough drills; Brown's Grammar, Mitchell's Geography, Algebra, Philosophy, Physiology, both the primary and the advanced works, were in nearly every school, and every school took pride in their spelling book: it was thoroughly learned, as well as the various sounds of letters in the fore part and the prefixes and suffixes in the back. *In those days pupils could spell.* And writing! Just think of that pile of copy books—one for every each of those children whose little hands were large enough to hold a pen! And just think of a teacher gathering up those books and setting copies in them all! Then imagine the innumerable bunches of goose quills, out of which it was the teacher's business to shape good pens for the use of all the children. They were used every day, and writing was considered as important a branch of study as there was in the school. They were laid neatly on the teacher's desk, and visitors were entertained by looking them over. Every day, every child in that school read twice and spelled twice, recited in Arithmetic, Geography, Mental Arithmetic, Practical (in writing), and, if they were of sufficient age, had either Philosophy, Physiology, Grammar or Algebra, sometimes all. The terms were never less than four months: from that to six, and of course pupils could but advance. Teachers could take a genuine pride in their work, not because they were getting the magnificent sum of one or two dollars per week, but because they could really see progress in their pupils, and could gather a little fruit of their own planting. How they ever did all this school work is only known to themselves; *it has come to be one of the lost arts.* But they did, and there were no more cases of softening of the brain or overwork among teachers than in other vocations! And what was the result of all this work and drill? A generation of fairly educated men and women, who can think and reason, can read intelligently, and write their names without making a scrawl that looks as though it might be their "mark."

How is it now? An average school is from twelve to twenty pupils; a school which has an attendance of forty is considered an enormously large and hard school, which should pay extra wages. The books are all good, but sometimes there are too many kinds at once. But what do they do? What are they accomplishing towards attaining that foundation of an education for which we are so heavily taxed, both in time and money? It may be they read once a day; but anyway reading is considered as unimportant and seems to be thrown in just to occupy time while some other lesson is being studied. It does not seem to matter whether they spell regularly even once a day or not. You ask to see their writing books, and are told that they are not writing this term, or the books are scattered around under the

owner's desks, and when they feel like it they write a line, whether it is once a day or once a month. They may be doing fairly well in mathematics, geography, and grammar, but the other studies, mental arithmetic, philosophy, physiology, etc., are no more heard of. How they manage to consume the time, accomplish no more than they do, is one of the mysteries to an old-fashioned teacher. The origin of this slowness and lack of energy does not lie in our common school. It is back of them in the graded and high schools. There the grades and courses of study are arranged to suit the mental capacity of the very dullest pupil, and, of course, the bright ones have almost nothing to do. Think of the terrible amount of draft on a pupil, when three pages in the speller is the school work for a ten weeks' grade. To see how long they can be doing next to nothing seems to be the work there, and in that they succeed well. Occasionally an extremely active and energetic child will push ahead in spite of grades and discouragements; but generally they fall into the groove and don't hurry themselves. If any person has any doubts concerning these studies, let them examine the grade books and courses of study of our home town of Kalamazoo, where four years are allowed and consumed in the study of practical arithmetic, five years in a spelling book of 175 pages, and other studies in proportion! Such pottering over nothing forms habits of slowness which show very plainly when at last they work in common schools.

Now I am not alone in my criticisms. Prof. Olney, than whom there is no better authority in Michigan, in a lecture which he delivered at the State Teachers' Institute at South Haven, Van Buren County, two years ago, said,—and I assure you it gave me a degree of satisfaction to hear him say it,—"Complaints have been coming in from all quarters that the schools are costing more, and the scholars are poorer than forty years ago." He spoke in particular of the neglect on the part of teachers in not drilling their scholars in reading, and said that it was of greater importance that a child be taught to read well than that he be taught to work out a puzzling example in arithmetic, as reading was something which the child should use every day of his life. Books, periodicals, and newspapers should be his daily companions, and it is vastly more important that every child should be so trained in reading that he will not only love to read silently to himself, but read understandingly and pleasantly to the home circle, than learn to compute difficult problems in compound interest. For, said he, a child's education should be for the one purpose of making daily life happier; and if he possesses the power of pleasantly entertaining the home circle, it is far more profitable in point of practical life, than the ability to reckon interest accurately, for the chances are he will never have occasion to use his interest, unless he owes some one. Edward Everett says that no poor reader can become a good scholar, and that always the best readers in the school are the brightest and most thorough scholars, and also the best behaved. Somehow the reading seems to develop thought, and they find other and better things with which to employ their minds than silly mischief. Prof. Olney also gave it as his opinion that writing and spelling ranked before arithmetic in point of practical utility. He asked what was more annoying than a letter which could not be deciphered because of misspelled words and poor writing; and he cast an approving glance at the old-fashioned round hand, so like the copperplate, every letter properly formed, and every word correctly spelled. His opinion was that the knowledge of the English language was most important of all, that we all talk, and that we have the right to be taught, so that the least sentence will be accurately uttered. A man may be

well versed in mathematics, and yet shock the ear and the sense by his violation of all grammatical rules, putting at defiance all moods and tenses in his intercourse with cultured people.

Also, at Grand Rapids, last fall, Prof. Olney said that the product of the schools cannot be compared with the boys and girls of forty years ago—that they are a generation behind.

Prof. Danials, superintendent of the schools of Grand Rapids, also in attendance at the South Haven Institute, gave his approval to the importance of these branches. He was very anxious to impress upon teachers the necessity of good manners, as well as attention to all the minutiae of the toilet. They should have clean teeth and finger nails, well dressed hair, clean neckwear, and clothing as well arranged as for a lady's parlor. Pupils look to their teacher for an example, and one term of bad example will undo years of good.

Both he, Prof. Olney and Prof. Putnam, of the Michigan State Normal, thought it very reprehensible in a director to employ any person who was not above reproach, who had vicious habits, or who was not a gentleman or a lady.

In Prof. Olney's lecture, he said it was true that the schools were not as good, and were costing more than they did forty years ago, but claimed that it was, in a measure, the patron's fault. He brought up many things to show that this money was not looked after, as money otherwise invested.

Now, is there any remedy for this retrograding in our schools? I think there is, and should be glad to see it tried, at least, and earnestly, for I, for one, feel that the question of education is quite as important as railroad monopolies or interest questions.

First of all, no teacher should be licensed who is not fully qualified, both as regards education and morals, no matter what the political influence of their families may be. This, of course, would call for a superintendent who was thoroughly capable, above petty office seeking, and in earnest in working for the good of the schools, and not looking after votes by giving licenses to unqualified persons. School superintendents should not be politicians. They should be chosen because of their fitness for their work, and they should be elected for four years, and it is the Patron's business to look to it that this is done. In that way the teachers would be sifted, and only the best ones be really in the school room. We have many, many excellent teachers—able, conscientious, faithful, and devoted, and it is not right that they should be pushed aside, and covered up by a crowd of incapable persons who only want the wages, and who seem to consider school teaching merely a diversion.

The next thing in order would be a good director, one who knows what the best interests of the school are, and will work for them. And lastly, a community who are in earnest in their interest in the school. Given these, we shall soon have good schools, with a uniformity of text books, and few changes, stability, something to hold fast to, until they can gather facts around this fixed point, is what children want, and it is a question for grave consideration, whether it is not better to hold fast to old books, with many glaring deficiencies, than tear up the roots of young minds, and run the risk of their growing better even in more perfect books, but after the change is made, stick to it. A uniform system of school books for the State is greatly to be desired. That is one reason of the success of the old schools, the pupils lost no time in making new acquaintances. Another was the long terms. What great inducement is there for a teacher to attempt to do much when hired for only two or three months, with a knowledge that more than likely they will never teach in that school again? If we hired our teachers as we

do our farm hands, by the year, and one year following another, it would soon come to be understood that a successful teacher was almost a fixture. We should hear little complaining from the pupils, for busy children have no time or mind for complaints. We should see that substantial progress in our children which would make our hearts glad, and no doubt every one of us would do all in our power, by our words and our presence, to help and sustain such a school.

At the Teachers' Institute at Grand Rapids last fall, it was said that a prize would be given by the Agricultural Society for the biggest pumpkin, but not for the best reader. The question of prizes at agricultural fairs was one discussed at the State superintendents' meeting at Jackson, a few days since, showing that there is a general recognition of the great need for something to be done in this matter; and although prizes, as a general rule, are not the best means to employ in stimulating pupils, still, work done for the sake of prizes is better than work not done at all.

Why cannot we, in our own home districts, in a modest way, try the experiment, and at the beginning of the school, offer a prize to the best reader or speller, or the pupils who will make the most real improvement in writing or composition.

This subject of our schools is of grave importance, and as I have said before, demand our attention quite as much as railroad monopolies or the interest question, or even the plaster question. Mrs. ALERED F. COX,  
Of Portage Grange,  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

## A Story with a Moral.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

(Excuse this pencil for I am in bed and cannot write with a pen.) I have been unable to compose my mind for the few days I have been obliged to lie here, feeling able to work, and yet not able to sit up. So at last I have hit upon the plan of bothering you with a short scribble.

First, I wish to say that I love all the dear sisters of the VISITOR; perhaps I ought to say my brothers, too. Well, be it so then, as I am past fifty, with grey hair, and a good husband. But I always look for dear Aunt Kate's name in the Ladies' Department. I wonder if she thinks I have forgotten the good advice she gave me. No indeed, and I esteem her as one of my personal friends.

But I was going to write a little story for the boys. Perhaps I ought to have sent it to *Our Little Grangers*. It is one, which my father, who is between eighty and ninety years of age, told me about his cousin, who, when a small boy, was in the employ of a merchant, in one of the Eastern States. The merchant one day said to the boy, "If you can manage to get a little money to send by me when I go the city to purchase my goods I will buy something for you which I will sell for you, and you shall have the profit on your little savings." But the boy was poor, having nothing but a hen and her chickens, which he sold for his first investment. The merchant did the best he could in purchasing for him, and his profits increased with each investment, and being economical, temperate, and pure in his habits, honest and upright in his deal, in a few years he became a partner in the firm, and afterwards sold out his share for, I think, twenty thousand dollars, and with an uncle, went to Ohio, where they bought a township of land in Trumbull County, where many of their descendants are probably now living in prosperity and happiness. And if any of them should recognize a relative in the author of this imperfect scrawl, and should respond through the medium of the dear little VISITOR, I suppose our aged father would almost feel as though the "dead was alive, and the lost was found." A PATRON.



**Woman's Sphere.**

An essay read before Grattan Grange, No. 170, by Sister Anna H. Wood:

Much has been said and sung about the sphere of woman. Some poetical beings have fancied, in their frenzy, that women were modest angels, with wings in ambush, ready to soar away in nervous flight upon the approach of anything earthly or sordid in its nature. Others maintain that she belongs to the human race—is, in short, a complementary part of mankind; just as necessary, just as important, just as useful, as the other part, and, as such, is endowed by the Creator with an equal share of those certain inalienable rights among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Others, again, deem that the good God had some little spite against woman, and decreed that she should not take as honorable a position in society as her brother, man; that, like the moon, she should shine only as she was shone upon by some bright masculine luminary; that she, in the public assembly, should cover her head in token of her unworthiness, and should only be allowed there by surffiance or out of the superabundant good nature of man, and, though her heart and brain might be bursting with desire to give words of counsel or cheer, she must maintain herself in patience till, at home, she is permitted to unburden herself meekly and with all due respect, to her husband. Some others would have woman busy herself only with domestic matters—make her greatest happiness to consist in keeping her husband good-natured, watching his every whim and want, and doing her utmost to supply them.

Now, where shall we find the true plane of woman's sphere, and how determine her true mission in the social world? When we have misgivings about the interpretation of divine writ upon any particular subject, we turn to the unwritten word of God, and that which before was dark and enigmatical frequently becomes clear to our conceptions. In the wisdom of God, it is decreed that woman shall be the mother of the human race—a not unimportant office—and as such he has endowed her with a depth and intensity of love known to no other social relation, and which has been aptly described by the poet:

"Hast thou sounded the depths of yonder sea, And counted the sands that under it lie? Hast thou measured the might of Heaven above? Then may'st thou mete out the mother's love."

"Evening and morn, has thou watched the bee Go forth on her errands of industry? The bee for herself hath gathered and toiled: But the mother's care is all for her child."

"There are teachings on earth, in sky and air; The heavens the glory of God declare; But louder than voice beneath above, He is heard to speak through a mother's love."

How powerful an agent is this mother's love, in moulding the character of the child! How often has the wayward son, when tempted from the path of rectitude, hesitated, as memory reverted to those holy, happy hours when in childhood he was overshadowed by a mother's love! The possession of these qualities eminently fits her for the office of teacher; but in this what wisdom she needs to sow the right seed, to cultivate and train aright the growth of character, that it may mature and ripen into useful, happy, beautiful manhood and womanhood. Was there ever a truly great man who could not trace the elements of his success to a mother's wise training, enforced and inspired by her tender love?

The next important social relation held by woman is that of wife. Formerly—and it is true among uncivilized races of the present day—"wife" was another name for slave. Her duties were assumed to be, in every possible manner, to anticipate and supply her lordly husband's wishes, at any and every sacrifice on her own part. But—thanks to a kind Providence, who is always bringing good out of evil and making things better—a great change has taken place in the social sphere of woman.

I have always been at a loss to determine whether civilization results from the elevation of woman in the social

sphere, or whether the elevation of woman resulted from civilization: but certain it is that where the highest, broadest, purest civilization is found, there woman stands out proudly, beautifully lovingly, the peer of her consort. Reasoning in this light, how grossly absurd it is to refer to the head of the family as "one!" The God-head is often called the Trinity; the family-head should be considered a duality.

The wife's true sphere in the family, aside from the domestic duties which custom has assigned her, is, by her gentleness, wisdom and winning ways, to polish and refine the characters of those with whom she associates—than which no higher nor pleasanter duty can be assumed by any human being. I doubt not but that success in life has oftener resulted from such influences than from any other cause. And the effect does not cease at the hearthstone of home, but, like the ripple made by the falling pebble upon the glassy surface of water, it goes on widening in circle after circle, until it reaches the farthest social shore, carrying love, happiness and contentment in its train.

So much has been said about the relation of woman to the State, that were I not a woman I should hesitate about stepping upon this debatable territory. As a citizen, she must be amenable to the laws. Does she commit theft or murder—the prison gates open as invitingly, or the cord encircles her neck as lovingly, as for her brother under similar circumstances. Does she own property? The tax-gatherer fails not to pay a friendly visit and gently remind her that she has a duty to perform in supporting the Government. We find her in many departments of the Government, performing her duties faithfully and creditably; and I would as soon think that the mother of Christ was unfit for heaven, as that the mother of statesmen, whom she had nurtured and laid broad and deep the foundation of character, was unfit mentally or morally to assume any of the functions of full citizenship. Her sphere in this, as in all other social departments, would be to exert her influence in purifying, refining, ennobling—opposing fraud and deceit, and inuring to the happiness of mankind.

I said I did not know whether woman made civilization, or civilization made woman what she is; but I believe that woman raised herself, and, with her, the whole human race to their present social status.

Now, sisters, in every sphere and station, let us do our duties faithfully and well, and transmit to our posterity "brighter all our mothers left us bright!"—remembering for our hope, and to stimulate us in our efforts for good, that

"One by one Earth's wrongs are smitten; One by one its errors fall. One by one are carved and written True's great triumphs over all. One by one the dreary places Grow with green and gush with light: One by one God's finger traces Moons and stars upon the night."

**Music and Flowers.**

Matter-of-fact farmers, with more stomach than brains, are apt to laugh at those who love music and flowers, and to pronounce the careful cultivation of either, the veriest nonsense. To them, the only crops worth raising are those that can be turned into food or dollars and cents, and the time spent in cultivation of flowers is thrown away. Such men lose half the enjoyment and happiness that those of finer instincts know, and live constantly with mind and soul clasped in the narrow compass of a pocketbook, or lost in the demands of daily dollar-grabbing and the gross appetite. Yet those who love and cultivate flowers are generally as well-to-do as their scornful neighbors, and the number of wealthy ones among them is quite as large. Then the pleasures they receive from the constant coming of beautiful marvels around them; from the ever recurring mystery of blade, and bud, and blossom; from the myriad bright-eyed favorites that repay them for their care by smiling daily into their faces; filling the air with fragrance and the soul with satisfaction—is simply incalculable. He who created the golden grain made also its many-headed cousins, the flowers, and no doubt intended that they should be loved and cherished. Better to starve the animal nature a little to satisfy the spiritual, than to starve the soul—suppressing all its longings for the beautiful; but to minister to the animal na-

ture of man. Love of flowers never yet led to misery, or ended in the prison cell or at the gallows, while love of gold has, a thousand times and more. Music and flowers may be evanescent and transient delights, but we should miss them sadly from our lives, and few things could compensate for their loss. Some pleasures people must have, and none are better or more harmless than the pursuit of such happiness as bright-eyed Blossoms and silver-souled song afford.—*Ex.*

**Unscrewing the Top of a Fruit Jar.**

There is one thing that there should be a law passed about, and that is, these glass fruit jars, with a top that screws on. It should be made a criminal offence, punishable with death or banishment to Chicago, for a person to manufacture a fruit jar, for preserving fruit, with a top that screws on. Those jars look nice when the fruit is put up in them, and the house-wife feels as though she were repaid for all her perspiration over a hot stove, as she looks at the glass jars of different berries on the shelf in the cellar. The trouble does not begin until she has company and decides to tap a little of her choice fruit. After the supper is well under way, she sends for a jar and tells the servant to unscrew the top and pour the fruit into a dish. The girl brings it into the kitchen and proceeds to unscrew the top. She works gently at first, then gets mad, wrenches at it, sprains her wrist, begins to cry, and skins her nose on the dry pan-cake batter that is hidden in the fold of her apron. Then the little house-wife takes hold of the fruit can smilingly, and says she will show the girl how to take off the top. She sits down on the woodbox, taking the glass jar between her knees, runs out her tongue, and twists. But the cover does not twist. The cover seems to feel as though it was placed there to keep guard over the fruit, and it is as immovable as the Egyptian pyramids. The little lady works until she is red in the face and her crimps have all come down, and then she sets her jaw to wait for the old man to come home. He comes in tired, disgusted, and mad as a hornet. When the case is laid before him, he goes out into the kitchen, pulls off his coat and takes the jar. He remarks that he is at a loss to know what women are made for, anyway. 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