

# THE GRANGE VISITOR

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY,

BY ORDER OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

[Kalamazoo Publishing Co.'s Print.]

VOL. 6, No. 10.  
WHOLE No. 90

SCHOOLCRAFT, MAY 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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## Master's Department

J. J. WOODMAN, PAW PAW.

### Bro. Cobb Returning—The Grange Visitor.

A card, mailed at Plattsmouth, Neb., May 7th, brings the welcome news that Bro. and Sister Cobb are returning from their western tour, and will probably reach home before the type of this number of the VISITOR will have touched the printer's ink.

We infer that the editor will return refreshed and invigorated, by inhaling the exhilarating breezes of the Pacific and the Sierra Nevada, and after a few days rest, be prepared to resume work with his accustomed energy and push: and with this number we shall return to his hands the trust temporarily confided to us. Our time has been so severely taxed with a multiplicity of official duties, during his absence, that we have found it impossible to give that time to editorial work which the interests of the VISITOR demand; yet we have endeavored to fill its columns with matter not only interesting, but useful and practical.

We feel grateful to its patrons for their generous forbearance with our short comings, as well as to those who have encouraged us by their words of cheer and approval. We also take this occasion to express our gratitude to the several correspondents, who have contributed to its columns, and thereby helped to keep up that interest, and bond of unity, between the Subordinate Granges, and the County, State and National Organizations, which is so essential to our prosperity as an Order.

Do not infer that, because some of your articles have not yet appeared in its columns they have all gone to the waste basket. They are carefully filed, and will be placed in the hands of the editor, to be used when the busy season of active farm operations and household duties will compel many pens to lie idle. Therefore, write when you have leisure, and your articles will be ready when there is room for them, and when they will certainly be needed.

Patrons of Michigan, *this is your paper*, and the only one published in our State in which you are partners in the business, shareholders in the stock of the concern. If it does not represent your interests, you have the power to change its management, and its teachings.

We have other valuable and worthy papers published in the interests of Agriculture, friendly and true to our Order, and deserving of our support. We cannot do without them; but this little sheet is *ours*, and should stand first on the list of our family papers. That it is appreciated by the members of our Order, its wide circulation demonstrates. But instead of a regular issue of five thousand copies, it should be double that number, and will be, if the proper effort is made by our members to obtain subscribers.

If we will look over the list of papers which we now support, we will be surprised to see how few of them are outspoken friends of our Organization.

In our several State papers we find every item of news, which sharp and ever watchful reporters are able to collect from almost every conceivable source, except such as relate to the work and progress of the farmers' great organization, fully and minutely report-

ed. The work of all conventions, doings of public gatherings, and mass meetings of every other order, association, or organization, is published; but how many of the farmers' picnics and mass-meetings, held in almost every County and neighborhood in the State the past year, and addressed by prominent citizens of this and other States, were even noticed by some of them?

If we would be respected, *we must respect ourselves*. If we desire friends to stand by us, we must stand by them. If we would have our rights recognized by the public press, we must give our support only to such papers as recognize us and our interests. This weeding out process should begin at once, and be thorough.

Patrons, speak a good word for the VISITOR among your friends and neighbors. Ask them to try it, the last six months of the present year for twenty-five cents.

The article on "Common Schools" was somewhat mixed by the printer, in "making-up" the last number. After the italicized words "*competent to*," in the center of the article, four lines were inserted which should have appeared seventeen lines lower down.

## Communications.

### About Fencing.

BERRIEN CENTRE, Mich.,  
May 10, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I am very much pleased to see how ably almost every subject that interests the farmer is being discussed in the VISITOR. But there is one subject that concerns the farmer financially more, perhaps, than any other one subject—which is not being discussed in the VISITOR as I think it should be. This is the subject of fencing.

While our country was new and a great deal of it unimproved, the farmer needed all the cleared land he had for cultivation. Then it was necessary to build fences, for he must have the wild, unimproved land for pasture. There was no market for his timber, so he might as well make it into rails as to burn it on the ground. It was necessary at that time to have as much stock of all kinds, running on the commons, as was possible, in order to keep down the rank growth of noxious weeds and briars that were growing up every year on our unimproved land.

But now the country is almost all improved; there are no commons except the roads. Is it not time to think of doing away with fences, except enough to confine our own stock, and then keep them in? On a farm of eighty acres, it requires about three miles of fence, in the ordinary way of fencing, while it will not take more than one-fourth of that amount to inclose all the pasture wanted on a farm of that size—making a saving of about one hundred dollars every year in fencing. This fence may be made portable, so that it can be moved, whenever it is necessary, with very little labor.

Now, this is a subject that farmers have got to consider seriously before very long. Our timber is almost gone, and the cost of fencing is increasing yearly. It appears to me that the sooner we dispense with all fences except enough to confine our own stock, the better it will be for all concerned, and especially for the farmer.

There are a few—and some of them

have large farms, too—who are in the habit of pasturing the roads, who would object to this, but just look at that man's cows and hogs; would he not be greatly benefitted if he were compelled to keep them in and feed them? Show me a man that lets his stock run in the road all summer, and I will show you a man that is a poor farmer. He sows no clover, he has no manure to draw out, for he feeds his cows in the road on cornstalks all winter; his fence corners are all growing up with briars, and he will tell you that farming don't pay. And he is right, for it takes all he can raise to build fences to keep his hungry stock out of his crops.

I claim that it is quite as unjust to compel me to build a fence to keep my neighbor's cattle from destroying my crops, as it would be to compel me to build a fence so high that my neighbor could not get over with a scythe to mow them down. My farm is my own; no other man's stock has any right to trespass on it.

Some may say, "Why, this would compel the poor man, who has no farm, to dispense with his cow and pig." Not at all. If it pays him to keep a cow and pig, and let them run in the road, it will pay him better to keep them in and feed them. And, suppose that it did not, is it right that ten farmers should be at the expense of one hundred dollars each every year, in order that one man may pasture the land that they have given for highway purposes?

Again I say that all laws and customs requiring the farmer to build more fence than enough to confine his own stock, should be abolished.

J. J. MURPHY.

Berrien Centre Grange, No. 14.

### Plaster—Lowell District Council.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

We have just closed out our last car of plaster for the season, unless more orders are received. We have sold 230 tons this spring, which is more than double the amount handled in one season, since Bros. Day & Taylor have supplied us. Many Patrons have canvassed, which has been the means of selling a large amount to farmers outside the gates.

Our united efforts have been the means of drawing on Bros. Day & Taylor's supplies, until our prediction has been fulfilled, viz: that we ought and could make it necessary for Bros. Day & Taylor to work their mill night and day. We believe their mill ought never to stand still as long as farmers use plaster, except to cool off, or for repairs. And if we work with the same zeal that we believe they do, we may see that day. We should not be satisfied with the present, but continue to do better.

We find it quite necessary for us to do business as a Council, instead of a Pomona Grange, Lowell being our principal place of business, and situated near the County line of Ionia and Kent Counties. In cases like ours, we believe Councils are a necessity, and hope the State Grange will not insist on wiping them out.

We presume there may be Granges that have handled more plaster than our Council, and we hope to hear from them.

Fraternally yours,

Lowell, May, 1880.

### An Old Firm in a New House.

We clip the following article, under the above heading, from the Chicago Grain and Provision Review:

The well-known commission house of Thomas Mason will, on the first day of May, move into their new quarters, No. 159 South Water Street, which has been selected partly on account of its central location, and partly owing to the increased capacity of the building to be occupied. This building is 28 feet in width, by 140 feet in depth, and is four stories in height, having in addition one of the finest basements for storage purposes on the street. The elevator, a very large and perfectly constructed apparatus, has a large carrying capacity, and is the most perfect one on South Water Street. The basement, which is cool, airy, spacious and well-ventilated, will be used exclusively for the storage of butter, whilst the upper floors will be divided into different departments for storage purposes. One floor will be set apart for storing apples, and will be arranged with a view of keeping a constant fresh current of air, so as to keep the apples, if necessary, for a lengthy period. The lower floor will be used for fruits, and will be so systematically arranged as to keep every box received in the best possible condition. The facilities for receiving and shipping will be materially improved in the new quarters, as the front and rear portions will be used for this purpose whenever it becomes necessary to facilitate business operations. Mr. Mason contemplates setting apart a large space of this building for the storage of wool, and farmers who desire a remunerative price for this valuable product should take special pains in collecting it together, as by accumulating a large quantity in his storerooms Mr. Mason will be enabled to bring buyers direct from the eastern markets, who will purchase only in large lots and will pay the highest ruling prices where they can make large purchases. This will save the expense of middlemen and will enable farmers to dispense with ruinous sales, made generally to travelling woolshylocks. The production of small fruit promises to excel last year's yield, especially in Illinois and Michigan, and the corresponding gain to farmers will exhibit no perceptible increase, should they make the fatal mistake of shipping to two or three houses with a view to retaining the friendship of all. Such a course at any time is suicidal, and particularly so during the fruit season, when their consignments require the services of an alert, experienced and reliable man.

Mr. Mason's establishment is acknowledged to be the headquarters for fruit, and his patrons, who comprise the leading hotels, restaurants, and grocers of the city, come to this house daily, knowing that they can be supplied here with the choicest of the market, and that his guarantee can be relied upon. To those who contemplate the shipment of apples to this house, we desire to give a friendly and certainly a profitable word of advice. Those who are not thoroughly posted in packing apples, should write to Mr. Mason for instructions, which he will be pleased to give gratis. The mistake usually made is to mix the apples together, regardless of their size and quality. They should understand that when this is done it is impossible to obtain a fair price, as buyers will only rate the barrels as inferior, and pay accordingly. Apples should be properly graded, and farmers, by taking a little pains, will find an increase in their revenue, from this source alone.

In connection with his general business, Mr. Mason has acquired considerable reputation as furnishing standard Sewing Machines at low prices. He has facilities whereby he is enabled to supply his patrons with the Excelsior, Whitney and Improved Singer to purchasers at wholesale prices. These machines are shipped direct from the factory, at figures that are about two-thirds less than the customary retail price. Mr. Mason sells these machines lower than any house in the city, and prides himself on his ability to distance all competitors. It would be superfluous in us to commend Mr. Mason to our readers as being a reliable, prompt and honorable gentleman. That is so well-known to shippers generally, and his reputation as a pains-taking, conscientious and high-toned business man, has been so long established that it would be a work of supererogation to repeat what is already so well known.

Is lending a friend a wash-dish showing basin gratitude?



## Master's Department

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW.

## Commissioner Le Duc's Lecture before the Elmira Farmer's Club.

(Continued from last number.)

G. W. Hoffman. It is the history of this country that there is always enough capital to work any raw material into the product whenever there is a demand for that product.

Col. Piollet. A very intelligent farmer of Indiana told me he had a simple sorghum mill like yours, and two pans like yours, and that he raised five acres of the amber cane, and ground it. The juice he put in his evaporator, and worked it until it was pretty nearly crystallized. He put it in a linen bag, like a salt bag, and hung it up and let it drain. He caught the syrup in something, and the sugar was good enough for him, he said. It was pressed enough in the bag. Is that reliable?

Commissioner. Entirely so. I am making some experiments at the laboratory, that I may, if possible, teach the farmers how to make their own loaf sugar. I told the chemist to take some of the flower pots, and cover the top with clay, and let it drain. This is the old method of the Hindoo.

Col. P. I think that is a much better use to put flower pots to. (Laughter.)

Com. I am very much surprised at that remark, coming from so veteran a Granger, who is held in such high esteem among the ladies too. The Floras of the different Granges will have to take his case in hand for serious consideration. (Laughter.)

A member. Would you not suggest that the farmers of this country should each for himself procure some good seed of the early amber sugar cane from Minnesota or elsewhere, and each try the experiment on a small scale for himself, and learn just how to handle this thing, in order that in the year after they may prepare to go on and each one plant from one to five or ten acres, as he may see fit?

Com. That undoubtedly is wisdom, but some persons may not be satisfied to wait, even for the experiment. They see money in it already.

(The Commissioner here read the statements of Mr. Miller and others relative to the value of seed, as follows:)

"A member of the Convention asked—Is the seed worth saving for feed?"

Mr. Miller. Yes, I regard the seed as quite a valuable crop for feed. One gentleman at the Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association held at St. Louis, stated that he regarded the seed worth as much as corn. The five or six tufts of seed which grow on one hill he regarded worth as much as two or three ears of corn for feed. I have used it myself; I had 160 bushels of seed four years ago, which I took to mill and had ground, this was mixed with bran to loosen it up, and fed to my stock. I sold the seed to my neighbors, and they think it especially desirable as hog feed. With poultry it does well."

A mem. Do you feed it whole to the hens?

Mr. M. Yes, sir; I think my hens do better than my neighbors', too."

Another mem. I feed it to my sheep."

Mr. M. Do they like it?"

Ans. Yes, very well; a sheep raiser tells me that the sorghum seed given in the feed of his sheep had an excellent effect on their wool, giving it a lively and polished appearance."

A mem. Did you ever try frosted cornstalks?

Com. No, sir; but the cane last year was nearly all of it frosted. I think not sufficient to freeze the juice, however. That question was brought up and discussed by those who raised the early amber in Minnesota, and the opinion seemed to be that the frosting of the cane, unless it had frozen and thawed several times, did not do it any harm. I can hardly credit this, however. I was under the impression that frost would ruin it, or destroy its value for sugar making; but my impression did not appear to accord with the experience of Minnesota workers. There are many matters that require further experiment before we can feel sure of our opinions in regard to them.

A mem. Do you know how much seed can be made to the acre?

Com. About thirty bushels, and as I said before, this is excellent seed.

A mem. How many tons of cane to the acre?

Com. That depends upon soil, cultivation, and all that, as does the production of seed. In one instance we have a record of 520 gallons of dense syrup as the product of one acre. That would indicate about thirty-one tons per acre, but this is far beyond the average.

A mem. The amber cane I raised last year grew nine feet tall.

Another mem. I think it weighs about forty two pounds.

Mr. Hoffman. It must be that, at least. It is heavier than oats.

Com. The seed varies with the variety of cane.

A mem. What is the best kind of cane for us to grow here?

Com. Early amber.

A mem. What do they pay a ton in Minnesota?

Com. Four dollars, delivered at the mill stripped.

Col. P. Where can we get the seed?

Com. I have 40,000 pounds. I can send those who wish to try it, sufficient for their purposes.

A mem. Can we presume it can be procured in Minnesota?

Com. I doubt if you can get it there, as I have given an order for all good Minnesota seed offered for sale.

Col. Piollet. Oh, well, if you have gone in there and made a corner—(Laughter.)

Com. I went in early so there would not be a corner in the Government. (Renewed Laughter.)

Col. P. They have at Washington an old sorghum mill with a sweep, and some sheet iron nailed on boards, for pans. It is not equal to a maple sugar sap bush arrangement.

In reply to that I will say that when this question of sugar production from sorghum came up for trial at the Department, through the favor of a friend, I had some early amber planted. His farmer took no interest in it, gave it no cultivation whatever, but let it grow as it would. When the time came to make the experiment with the juice, it occurred to me that the farmers of the country would much prefer to see them made in a practical way, rather than that they should be made in the laboratory. Therefore I sent out to Maryland, and picked up an old sorghum mill that had been discarded several years, and patched up, and used it for the purpose. Aside from the object, I have referred to, I had another motive, and that to show what might be done by the farmer when short of money with which to buy new and suitable machinery. What we have done, any farmer in the country can do. And such, my friends, is the United States seed distribution, and I want to say a word on this point, because it is a matter of pretty sore business with me. (Laughter.) In the stand I have taken I have incurred the enmity of certain members of Congress, and they make it pretty lively for me sometimes. I found upon assuming my duties that the organic law of the Department required the Commissioner of Agriculture to purchase new and valuable seeds, and shall distribute them among agriculturists." This law admits of but one construction, and—

Col. P. And there were no agriculturists in Congress. (Laughter.)

Com. But few, if any. I then decided that the government seed store should pull down its sign, and hang up its shutters, and in the future we would try and make it a Department more worthy of its name. I addressed a letter to each member of Congress, calling his attention to this law, and asking him to furnish me with the names of the prominent agriculturists in his own district. I had no idea whether they were Democrats or Republicans, black or white, rich or poor, so long as they were those upon whom I could rely for intelligent service and report. So far as I know, not a single answer has been returned to this circular. Then I said to myself, All right, there is an organization called the Grange. (Applause.) Its members should know something about this matter. So I sent letters, as nearly as I could, to the different Granges; for no one at that time had a list of them. I made out to find them through my correspondents, whom I asked for a list of those in each County, and to-day I have a list giving me the names of the Master and Secretary of every live Grange in the United States. (Applause; cries of "Good!" "Good!" "I doubt if any other person has such a list.")

Col. P. It is the most valuable book in Washington.

Com. Then I have a list of all the agricultural societies and farmers' clubs.

Col. P. Of which the Elmira Farmers' Club stands at the head. (Warm applause.)

Com. I have put these down as people who are entitled under the law (which I have quoted) to seed for the purposes of experiment. I have also, through my correspondents and through the premium lists of fairs, and in other ways, obtained the names of ten of the best farmers in each County, regardless of politics, religion, or "prejudice." These are entered on the "condition of servitude." (Applause.) These are entered on the "ten farmer-book," and to these people at all times seeds may properly be sent. To each we endeavor to send whatever may be most profitable for him to raise in his particular locality. It is no small matter, and, in fact, I cannot do it as it should be done. Consider for a moment what it involves. Here is a country extending from the lakes to the gulf, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with every variety of climate that is desirable, every variety of soil, every condition known to meteorology and geology. A man acquainted with all these conditions of our country, and who is otherwise competent to faithfully make this distribution could earn from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year if employed outside of the Department of Agriculture, and yet I am expected to obtain a man for

my work, whose duty it shall be to designate the variety of seed that shall go to a particular part of the country, for \$1,200.

Let me carry this question of salaries a little further. A chemist of the Treasury Department was employed as an expert in an examination of sugars, in connection with some fraud upon the revenue. The chemist of the Agricultural Department was called in as an expert, and did equally valuable work of the same kind. The treasury chemist received within a few dollars of four times the yearly salary of the Department chemist. This is characteristic of everything pertaining to agriculture and its Department. The Commissioner of Agriculture, whose salary is fixed by law at \$4,000, gets but \$3,000. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue gets \$6,000. The short-hand writer that I employ gets \$1,600, while those of the Senate and House get \$5,000 each, and mine does as much work in one day as they do in two, taking the year through.

Col. P. What do you pay your chemist?

Com. He gets \$1,900 only. That is what he gets for the privilege of devoting himself wholly and with much ability to the worthy and admirable work which has occupied his attention for the last two years.

Col. P. You haven't many such fellows down there. (Laughter.)

Com. No, we have not. Not many who are willing to spend all their own resources that they may live to serve the country. I only mention these things.

Col. P. I am glad you do. We want to understand them.

Com. To fully understand the contentment with which the agricultural interests are regarded, you have but to refer to the chairman of the Agricultural Committee, who have in years past occupied that despised position. Ask them what consideration has heretofore been given to agricultural matters in the National Congress. In my opinion, gentlemen, and I believe in yours, this Committee should be the largest and most important Committee in the organization of the Senate and House. For I believe it is more important how wealth shall be produced, than how we shall spend it.

The little building which we occupy as a Department of Agriculture is overcrowded with clerks, and indeed were you to enter some of the rooms during certain periods of the year, you would feel yourself poisoned by the foul air. When you go to the Treasury Department, at the new War, and Navy Departments, those magnificent buildings, and then make a comparison with the building which represents the interest in which one-half of the people are engaged, I know how we should appreciate the vast difference between them, and be led to ask, why that difference? The answer is, that it is that the Agricultural Department does not have some proper building in which the work to be done may be performed in a satisfactory manner. The chemical laboratory of the United States is embraced in a room twenty feet square—a room not nearly as large as the Treasury and a cellar underneath it, and of the same size, constitute the laboratory of the United States. Only last year I begged the Committee to give us a laboratory worthy of the nation, and the work we are doing. If they would give us such, we could hope to deal properly with the constantly arising, of the greatest importance to the productive industries of the land. To go back to what the saving by the raising of our own sugar means, and assuming that we make our own sugar, for we will nearly or quite do it the fifth crop from to-day, thus saving \$100,000,000, we could build with the savings of one year's Department building eight times as expensive as the Capitol of the United States, which cost \$12,000,000. Perhaps it may occur to you to inquire the use of so extensive a laboratory. In Germany, where agricultural chemistry received its great impetus about Prof. Liebig, they have three laboratories in different parts of the country, costing more than \$300,000 each. These prudent, close Germans find it profitable for their country, and we would find it to be, if once established properly, the most valuable of all governmental divisions, and altogether indispensable. As an illustration of the valuable work doing, and to be done, take the matter of grasses. This is something you are all familiar with. How important it is that you know whether an acre or a ton of blue grass or some other variety will give the most flesh to your stock. If we, by chemical analysis, find a grass that will give two pounds more flesh to your animals in a given time, the value of the information can be justly counted by millions. We can already tell you as to the value of some twenty or thirty varieties, and this is one of the many things in which chemistry comes forward to aid agriculture. Take another thing, Desmodium, or as it is called, "Bear lice." Tick weed—

Col. P. We are beggars, but none of us are lousy. (Laughter.)

Com. No doubt that is true—but although you may know (especially those who have had occasion to pass through your brush land) by sad experience what seed ticks are, yet I doubt if you know tick seed. It is a weed growing in Florida from four to six feet in height, which is of more value to people who want to improve and

put in good condition their old broken down sandy lands than red clover, and you know all of you that is of infinite importance. It will give you more of the food that the land requires than your red clover. I do not know whether it will grow here or not, but an experiment will determine its value in your soil and climate. I have faith in it, and if it be what I expect it to be, should be a valuable addition to the sandy lands of South Carolina. It is of more importance, and represents more in amount than fifty laboratories such as I want would cost. You will find an account of it in my report of 1878.

The question of forestry comes up. I have asked Congress to allow me to do something to prevent the waste of forests, and for authority to send out a commission to examine the country in various parts to see if we cannot plant extensive forests on the great plains. The Government owns the land, why should we make an experiment in that direction? I asked as I came through this morning, that your hills are denuded, and almost entirely bare. Do you know that when you have cut the timber from the country you have ruined it? That your streams will decrease, your springs dry up? Do you know the fate that overtakes the country that has its timber destroyed? It is the same fate that has overtaken parts of Asia. Palestine is today ruined by the destruction of the forests. Did you ever think what the trees were put on the hillsides for? When the wind that precedes the branches backward and forward, and it is put in a condition something in the nature of a sponge. Then the rain falls and is immediately absorbed by the earth to again run out of silver springs, giving health and prosperity to all. But if you lay the axe at the foot of the tree, if you destroy the forests, the ground becomes hard and baked under the action of the sun. The wind blows as before, but unhappily, with not the same effect. The rain descends; instead of meeting with a reservoir in the earth, it is driven down the hillsides in torrents that combine to form a roaring river in the valley below, and which often carries ruin and devastation before it. This important agricultural question is one of the most serious that can, in my judgment, be brought to the consideration of the Government.

I could enumerate many very agricultural matters, heretofore neglected, that should receive the immediate energetic and thorough attention of the Government; but neither my effort, nor the earnest recommendation of President Hayes, repeated in every message, have as yet succeeded in securing such attention as their importance requires. But I say to you, gentlemen, it is your duty to see that we have money enough to go on with this work, to do it properly. I am at the seat of government, but I am there as a soldier leading a forlorn hope in an attack upon the indifference and contempt heretofore manifested towards the Department of Agriculture and its interests. I am fighting your battle as best I can, and it is your duty to see that I am properly supported with the means that I require to do my duty.

Col. Piollet read a copy of the bill making the Agricultural Department an executive department, and asked the Commissioner's opinion of it.

Com. All that I ask is that they shall put agriculture on an equality with the other Departments of the Government.

Col. P. Well, now, farmers, I tell you that this movement is one of the greatest importance to agriculture in America, and we have a right to what we ask. We, the agriculturists of America, contribute four-fifths of the revenues of the Government. I say that it is very unjust that we do not have more recognition. Look at the millions a year represented in three products alone—corn, in the shape of alcohol, tobacco and wheat—and, as I said before, consider the value of our exports we send off in the shape of fertilizers. We should make all the alcohol of the world. We must push this thing, and if we drive Congress we will carry our points in both Houses. Let us work, then; push, drive and don't rest until the present Commissioner of Agriculture is made a cabinet officer. [Applause.] Now, friends, I wish that you would all of you sit down and write your members of Congress and let them know that we have been crowded to the wall long enough, and that now we are going to resist with all the power we possess, every means that is taken to deprive us of our rights. [Applause.]

W. A. Armstrong. There is another consideration I could mention: At this moment there is a cattle disease devastating in various parts of this country, the spread of which will be absolutely without limit unless some governmental action be taken to stamp out the disease where it now exists. The cattle plague at this moment has possession of the herds in the counties adjoining New York City, in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. This is a danger that cannot be met by the States, except by their combined action in the general government. I speak of this matter only as an additional reason why we want and must have a Department of Agriculture. The interests of this country demand this, and they have more need of it than for any other Department.

ment. We can even get along without the Post Office Department better than without our Agricultural. For, if this cattle plague is allowed to run, with this disease and the thousand plagues that attack our farm animals, by and by we will have no need in the United States for a department of any kind. My friend, Col. Piollet, has spoken to this point very forcibly, in my judgment, and Gen. Le Ducas well, when he says that it is your business to see that your rights are respected. It is something that you can take hold of and bring to a successful issue. The average Congressman does not care any more for your interests than he does for those of Great Britain, except for your votes. You show him that your voting depends upon his treatment of your interests, and you will quickly get what you want. There is not a commercial paper—with a single exception—within my acquaintance that ever has anything to say about the needs of agriculture, and yet upon it all commerce depends. Now, if the farmers of this State, of every State, will but stir themselves and make this fight their fight, I can assure them that any thing they may ask, if not quite beyond reason, will be granted.

Com. I am of the opinion that, if the Department cannot write its record, it should not exist. When I assumed charge of it, it was in contempt of the nation, and, as I think, justly so. I say: Let it do something worthy of the nation and of the cause the Department represents, or else wipe it out of existence. This is the ground I have taken, and I intend to hold it. I have replied to but one slander, I believe. I was charged with being a thief: it was said that I had been in partnership with the private secretary to the president in some commission business in the West; that some members of Congress had the case in hand and was going to prosecute. I believe I did at that time prove that I never was in partnership with Mr. Rogers; that I never was in the commission business, and that I did not owe a debt at the time, or do not now, that I can't pay. I inquired as to the authorship, and, as I remember, it was published in a Chicago paper called the *Prairie Farmer*. This paper has abused me from the day I entered the office to the present, but this will right itself in time, probably, as very many letters I have received from farmers in reference to it declare that they will not support it any longer. I know that these papers have had their day, and I firmly believe mine is coming. I have a firm reliance in the ultimate triumph of the right—that is my faith. The farmers of the country, and the citizens generally of the country, ought to make most careful discrimination in the papers they subscribe for, read themselves, and lay before their families. It is as true in morals as in physics, that you cannot handle pitch without being defiled. The influence of irresponsible newspaper writers—of scribblers who invent lies to serve their own personal ends, to secure payment for a paragraph, or to gratify personal spite—on the people of our country, is coming to be a very serious matter, and publishers should be held to a more strict accountability.

Col. P. I know of nothing more contemptible, nothing more pernicious in its tendencies, more pernicious in its effects, than this very thing. It is something that we want to look to. Let us begin with our agricultural papers, and weed out those that are against us and those papers that publish such articles for the sole purpose of selling their papers. [The Colonel here read a long extract from the Philadelphia *Times* derogatory to the Department.]

W. A. Ward. That is the key note. If a man will begin at the weeding process and stop the papers that indulge in this abuse, it will soon stop. I take the *Times*; after this year it will never come into my house. [Cheers and applause, long continued.]

Col. P. That is right.

[To be concluded in next number.]

## To Young Men.

Henry Clay once said: "I owe my success in life to one fact, namely: At the age of 27, I commenced and continued for years the practice of reading and speaking upon the contents of some historical or scientific book. These off-hand efforts were made sometimes in a cornfield, at others in a forest, and not unfrequently in some distant barn, with the horse and ox for my auditors. It is to this early practice in the great art of arts that I am indebted for the primary and leading impulse that stimulated me forward and shaped and modeled my entire subsequent destiny. Improve, then, young gentlemen, the superior advantages you here enjoy. Let no day pass without exercising your power of speech. There is no pay like oratory. Caesar controlled men by exciting their fears, Cicero by captivating their affections and swaying their passions. The influence of the one perished with the author; that of the other continues to this day."

A PUPIL in his declamation having been told to gesticulate according to the sense, in commencing a piece with, "The comet lifts up its fiery tail," innocently lifted the tail of his coat and looked around for applause.



## Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN.

PAW PAW

## Oleomargarine Butter.

A Michigan member of Congress announces himself a farmer, and is looking after the agricultural interests. The world moves.

From the New York Sun.

Mr. William Remson, representing the oleomargarine interests of New York, gave the Agricultural Committee of Congress a grand banquet at Delmonico's last evening. Six of the twenty-two members of the two committees were present. They were the Hon. James B. Richmond, of Virginia; D. Wyatt Aiken, of South Carolina; Jonas H. McGowan, of Michigan; Walter L. Steele, of North Carolina; Albert P. Forsythe, of Illinois; and John A. Anderson, of Kansas.

The walls were decorated with festooned flags and the coats of arms of the United States and of the State of New York. The table was laden with silver candelabra, small palms and rose tress in full bloom, and golden blocks of oleomargarine. Banks of flowers filled the hall with perfume, and a band wandered through the air of "Fatinitza," and other operas. The menu was printed on ribbed satin of various colors. The farmers were dressed as farmers should be, in swal low tail coats, waistcoats cut decollete, and diamond studs. As all true farmers ought to do, they ate French dishes with a relish, and washed them down with costly wines. One fact is especially noteworthy. The farmers drank about 600 bottles of wine, smoked 1,500 cigars, and ate a quarter of a pound of oleomargarine. This is said to be an unusual average. As is usual at farmers' dinners, cigarettes were lighted between the courses, and vigorously puffed. Nor was this the only puffing done. The beauties of oleomargarine were described in farmer-like phrases, and its manufacturers were called benefactors of the human race.

After the cloth was removed, Mr. Remson introduced the Hon. Algernon S. Sullivan as chairman of the evening. Farmer Sullivan expressed his pleasure at meeting so many standard farmers. He said that he had learned the habits of the weevil from Russell Sage, had received a recipe from Rufus Hatch for killing cucumber bugs, and that Judge Van Brunt and Farmer Hewitt had told him all about the potato bug. He closed by introducing the Hon. John W. Anderson, of Kansas. Mr. Anderson called himself a farmer from the great West. [This is important, for the Congressional Dictionary says he is a clergyman.—REP.] He rolled himself over the purlies for a few minutes, and then said, "You represent the grandest city of the grandest State in the grandest country on the grandest continent on the globe." Gen. Steward L. Woodford, the Hon. Thomas Murphy, Gen. Palmer and others accepted the compliment with wild cheers, and the reverend agriculturist resumed his seat.

The Hon. D. Wyatt Aiken, of South Carolina, the father of ten children, was next introduced. The farmers remembered the uncompromising Unionism of his kinsman, William Aiken, and greeted him with rounds of cheers. Mr. Aiken announced himself as a farmer. [This is important for the Congressional Dictionary says it is true.—REP.] Mr. Aiken began by telling a story of a negro witness who was testifying before a negro Judge in Charleston. At one point in his testimony the Judge reminded him that he was sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. "Come, nigger," the witness replied, "You done keep your mouth shut, and let the white folks talk." Mr. Aiken said he felt very much like that now. He wanted to hear the white folks talk. He had been a farmer twenty-five years, and until he went to Congress. "Where," said he, "I bid fair to learn something else." [Insinuating laughter.] He understood that oleomargarine is a product of farming, and as such he took an interest in it. Its enormous production spoke volumes for the farmers of this great city. It knit them to the farmers of the West and sunny South. It was a guarantee that, from the ice bound prairies of Minnesota to the orange groves of Florida, the country would remain one and indissoluble.

The next speaker was the Hon. Jonas H. McGowan, of Michigan. He spoke of himself as a farmer. [This is important, for the Congressional Dictionary calls him a lawyer.—REP.] Mr. McGowan made a short speech, in which he fanned the wings of the American eagle, tossed high the cap of the Goddess of Liberty, turned the calumnet light of Wolverine eloquence upon the Federal Constitution and figuratively wrapped himself in the stars and stripes. He was loudly applauded.

The Hon. Albert P. Forsythe, of Illinois, was next introduced. He said that he was a farmer and a Granger. [This is important, for the Congressional Dictionary says it is true.—REP.] Mr. Forsythe said that his constituents had become convinced that there was entirely too much talking done in Congress, and they had elected him because he was no talker. He was proud, how-

ever, to meet the farmers of New York. It was his first visit to this little village, and he was pleased to see its agricultural interests so well represented. "We get 20 cents a bushel for our grain out in Illinois," said he, "when it brings sixty here. We have been trying to find out where the leakage is. Perhaps some of the farmers in this city can tell us."

All eyes were turned to Farmers Sage, Jerome, and Wyman, but they evidently took the suggestion for a conundrum, and made no effort to answer it. "The lawyer speaks for all," Mr. Forsythe continued, "the soldier fights for all, the preacher prays for all, and the farmer works for all. Out of the 233 members of the House of Representatives, but sixteen are farmers. They represent 9,000,000 of hard-headed voters. This is wrong. Every class should be represented in proportion to their numbers and interests."

The next speaker was the Hon. Jas. B. Richmond, of Virginia. He announced himself as a farmer. [This is important, for the Congressional Dictionary says that he is a lawyer.—REP.] He said that he had yet to see men hold the plow and handle the hoe when they could find any other vocation. He astonished Mr. Charles Delmonico by asserting that the farmers before him were all smoking cigars made from Virginia tobacco. "We were invited over here," said Mr. Richmond, "to look after this new method of making cheap butter. If it is wholesome, it is an enterprise that ought to be encouraged."

The Hon. S. W. Downey, of Wyoming, then declared himself a farmer. [This is important, for the Congressional Dictionary sets him down as a lawyer.—REP.] He ruffled the feathers of the American eagle for a few minutes, and then gave way to the Hon. Walter L. Steele, of North Carolina. Steele assured the company that he was a farmer. [This is also highly important, for the Congressional Dictionary says that he is a lawyer.—REP.] Mr. Steele made a speech flavored with tar, turpentine, and champagne, and then burst into a recitation of "Tam O'Shanter," which was loudly applauded.

## Valuable Information.

The following, from the St. Clair Republican, is from the pen of Bro. C. L. Whitney, and contains much information relating to the composition of land plaster and stucco. It will be seen, that as stucco is made of the purest gypsum rock, the land plaster, which is ground from the refuse rock, after all that is suitable for stucco has been selected, must be of an inferior quality:

## PLASTER VS. STUCCO.

What are these two common articles, and whence obtained, and their relation to each other? They are both obtained from a common rock called gypsum, of which there are large beds and deposits in various parts of North America. This gypsum is everywhere essentially the same in composition, differing only in color and in impurities. The color is usually white, but rocks of a great variety and color are found, and the difference is owing to the presence of oxide of iron, or of other metals. Pure gypsum is a sulphate of lime to the chemist, and is given in its formula: Ca. O. S. O. 3 plus 2 H. O. that is 1 equivalent of the oxide of calcium or lime, 1 equivalent of sulphuric acid and 2 equivalents of water, the water of composition.

Gypsum may be artificially formed by pouring a little sulphuric acid into strong lime water in a sediment will form which is gypsum, or by putting dilute sulphuric acid upon marble or chalk which are carbonate of lime. The carbonic acid escapes into the air in the form of a gas and there will be left sulphate of lime and water, the former settling as before, and when dried it is gypsum.

For land plaster the rock is quarried and then season or dried. The drier the rock is, the better it grinds, being finer and of less weight when ground. Fine plaster is better as a fertilizer, and the drier it is, the greater the saving in transportation, on account of the weight, and it is less liable to become caked or lumpy.

The purest plaster rock, or gypsum, is said to be freer from foreign substances, as shale and earth, the better the ground plaster will be, and the more valuable for the farmer to use. Land plaster is but slightly soluble in water—only one part being taken up by 400 parts of water—water at common temperature will take more gypsum in solution than hot water.

The effect of land plaster as a fertilizer is greatest upon the leguminous plants, as clover, peas, &c., potatoes, tobacco, and others of the solanum family, or upon turnips, cabbage and others of the cruciferae tribe.

To plants requiring lime or sulphur, plaster is directly valuable as a manure, as they not only absorb the lime, but also the sulphur of the sulphuric acid. Plaster has also an important secondary use in economic agriculture, being an agent to absorb the carbonate of ammonia contained in the air, also in rain water and snow water. The carbonate of ammonia is a volatile gas,

arising from the decay or decomposition of all vegetable and animal matter, but which is, by the use of plaster, caught and held as plant food. The two salts, carbonate of ammonia and sulphate of lime, by contact, become converted respectively into two other salts, the sulphate of ammonia and the carbonate of lime—but retained in, and useful to the soil, being in different forms than before.

The carbonate of ammonia is a volatile gas, escaping into the air, even at common temperatures, while the sulphate of ammonia is not volatile, but is retained by the soil as a soluble salt—a valuable fertilizer.

Stucco is calcined gypsum. The purest and whitest gypsum rock is selected and when dry is ground fine, and then calcined, or heated, in iron kettles to expel the water of composition, of which it has been before shown there are two parts in the best gypsum rock. Heated to 212 degrees, one part of the water is expelled, and the plaster in the kettles boils like water. When heated to 300 degrees, the other equivalent of water of composition is also driven off, and we have stucco, or plaster of Paris, as it is often called.

When stucco is mixed with water, it unites rapidly with it, and soon sets, or becomes hard, like the original rock, which it is like, the water of composition, driven out by heating, having been restored.

Sometimes the rock for stucco is partially calcined before being ground, and then the process continued after it is ground, to drive off the balance of the water.

The practice of mills making stucco is to select the purest and best for stucco and then grind the residue, with adhering mud and shale, into land plaster, making a secondary product for the use of agriculture. The impurities are no detriment to the land, and did they cost nothing to handle and for freight, might be of some use, but with high freight, so heavy an article as land plaster should be as pure as possible, and should be a specialty with those claiming the patronage of the American farmer as manufacturers of land plaster.

C. L. W.

## Installation Address.

The following is an address delivered by K. J. Brown, Master of Alpine Grange, No. 348, at the installation of the officers of Harmony Grange, No. 337, Jan. 31, 1880:

It is with peculiar feelings that I attempt to perform the duties of this day, although I have been accustomed to commemorate it for forty years or upwards, and have met father, mother, brothers, relatives, and friends, but have never been able to meet so many of my brothers and sisters to commemorate my birth as to day, this day numbering my forty-fifth year.

Recognizing as I do that this Grange stands second to none in this beautiful State of ours in culture and refinement, and have held that this should be made an occasion to afford the members an opportunity to listen to some of the eminent and highly cultivated speakers, of whom this State affords its share, from which they might select, to perform the duties which have been rendered, together with able addresses, upon former occasions, with so great ability, and so much satisfaction, as to create alarm and apprehension that I might mar the pleasure that it would otherwise afford.

But considering that we are all brothers and sisters of one common family, and if I do not perform the duties as well as others, but show my willingness to assist in promoting the welfare of the Fraternity to the best of my ability, you will have charity and overlook all mistakes, I venture upon the task.

This Order was planned and brought into existence by wise, pure and noble men and women, who had a grand purpose in view, viz: the elevation of the masses of mankind in developing a better and higher manhood and womanhood among the farming class, to encourage education, to strengthen our attachment to our pursuits, to enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and to read and think for ourselves—these are some of the objects for which these noble men and women sacrificed their time and money to accomplish, and have seen the fruits of their labors to make them feel that they were rewarded for their unselfish and kindly acts, so nobly, heroically, and perseveringly labored for.

We have evidences that the work laid out by the founders of this Order has been fully appreciated, for look all over the land, and especially to our own State, and see the many beautiful and tasty halls that have been erected and dedicated to these noble purposes, which stand as monuments that must represent that the subordinate members have faith in the institution, and that it is to be one of lasting benefits to the rural districts.

Then let us come here and exchange ideas, and gather knowledge that we may adorn and improve our homes, and cultivate our farms so as to increase our products; not solely from the selfish consideration to increase our wealth, but to elevate our class.

An institution possessing so much influence, performing so much good, and increasing so rapidly in numbers, may well attract public attention, and excite a laudable desire to know its progress, its principles, its aims and objects.

The founders of this noble Order built better than they knew. Its cherished aims and objects are all acknowledged, but we should direct our thoughts beyond the social feature of our Order, to the moral, intellectual, and spiritual, to educate our members to have a desire for their proper position, and to impress them with a just standard of duty, and to lead them to walk in such a manner that they will have a true appreciation of their whole duty, whether to God, themselves, or their brothers and sisters, adrift amid the trials and misfortunes of life. Then let us cultivate friendly and social intercourse among the members

of this and all kindred societies. As the sun shines impartially on all alike, so let the benefits of our knowledge and experience be given to all who will listen and profit by it.

Where a people are prosperous, advancing in civilization, refinement, art, and a desire to advance their condition, it is to be hoped that they will reach a high state of perfection.

May we not expect to improve our condition, when we can leave our work, and spend a short time in improving our minds, and cultivating a better moral and intellectual condition—for such the Grange inculcates.

It is well in the voyage of life to make frequent observations of our personal progress. By a common law, we seem to claim an hour or day now and then from the cares and duties of this life, for pleasure, pastime, or sober thought. Birthdays, wedding days, and other anniversaries, are events that seem to call up thoughts that cause them to be observed; but there is a fitness in the closing scenes of any era, however short, for a scrutiny of self. Now, as this meeting closes the work of this Grange for the past year, it seems proper that you should ask yourselves what progress you have made in the Order, what you have learned. Have you made any improvement in the past year to encourage you to perseverance in the future? If so, then let all unite with these brothers and sisters who have been elected to hold and perform the duties of the officers of this Grange, to make this year long to be remembered, because you here to-day resolved to increase your efforts to attain the objects for which you organized; for by so doing, nowhere on earth will there be a people whose prospects of success are more assured, and whose future will be brighter than yours. K. J. BROWN.

## A Prosperous Grange.

March 27th, 1880.

## Editor Grange Visitor:

It has been sometime since I have seen anything in the VISITOR from Morenci Grange, No. 280, therefore I send a few lines that the P. of H. may know how we are getting along. One year ago last January our membership was 41, and at this date we number 82, all of whom, except five, are in possession of the new A. W., and are good live working members. Our meetings are very interesting and attractive, and be the weather ever so inclement, our hall is well filled. There are some eight or ten members who have not missed a meeting during the past year. We hold our meetings once a week, and have a paper read once every two weeks, composed of contributions from the members, which adds interest and amusement to the meetings. Last Saturday evening we conferred the 4th degree on seven men and women, whom we have reason to believe will prove good and desirable members. A neighboring Grange visited us on that occasion by invitation, and about 80 Patrons partook of the harvest feast, and a most enjoyable time of about half an hour was spent. Then our Worthy Chaplain (who had resigned the week before on account of moving away) was presented with a large illustrated family Bible, by one of the sisters, in behalf of the Grange. She made a very impressive and appropriate little presentation speech; all of which took our Worthy Chaplain so much by surprise, that it almost unmanned him at first, but after a brief period he returned his heartfelt thanks to the Grange, and expressed his regret at leaving them. After that our paper was read in a pleasing manner by a worthy sister, which was instructive and amusing, and responded to by W. M. Abbott, of Chesterfield Grange. After listening to short and spicy remarks from visiting members and others, the Grange was closed. We are now taking 25 copies of the GRANGE VISITOR, and I expect to send another list of names ere long.

Yours fraternally,  
SECY OF MORENCI GRANGE.

## Communications.

## Farmers Entitled to Hold Office.

SPRINGPORT GRANGE, No. 45, }  
April 28th, 1880. }

## J. T. Cobb:

As the question, Who shall be the next Governor of Michigan? is before the people, an humble tiller of the soil would ask to be indulged in a few crude remarks.

That there are many farmers who possess all the necessary qualifications for the office of Governor, or any office in the gift of the people, none will attempt to question. We have too long been led to believe that none but professional men were qualified to look after and guard the people's interests. Have they at all times well and faithfully discharged the important trust committed to their care? Bankers and lawyers largely predominate in both our State and National councils, and we have the result of their legislation before us, for our present and future consideration and action. Will we not profit by past experience? Who is better qualified than the farmer to look after the interests of the producer? Most certainly, non-producers are not qualified to discharge a trust so vital to the interest of the masses.

I believe that the farmer should begin to feel "That he who by the plow would thrive, himself must either hold or drive." We should feel that we are entitled to, and will have a farmer for the next Governor of Michigan; and further, that we are entitled to, and mean to have our full ratio of all the offices in the gift of the people, *pro rata* of population. To do this, it is necessary that we manifest a determination to look after and protect our own interests. Show to all that we feel entirely competent to take charge of and manage our own affairs; and while we mean to do this, we are entirely willing to grant the same right of self-protection to other classes, and we would call on all to assist in obtaining a more equal distribution of the burdens and benefits of legislation. We should see that the proper and full quota of delegates are sent to all the nominating conventions, good and able men put in nomination, and then work at the polls, with the majority of ballots which we hold, and the victory is ours. CADMUS.



## THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, MAY 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.

## AT HOME.

As some of our readers will remember, we left Schoolcraft on Tuesday, the ninth of March, and at this writing, after an absence of just nine weeks, we find ourselves at our old desk, ready to resume our work for the Patrons of Michigan first, and next for the Order of Patrons of Husbandry where ever found.

We have had a very satisfactory trip, and hope that these few weeks' of relaxation have better prepared us for the work that lies just before us.

So far as we see, our efficient clerk has taken good care of the business of the office while we were away, and the VISITOR itself must speak for the guardianship of Bro. Woodman during our absence.

California is an immense country, and our flying trip has not, of course qualified us for such definite and exact statement of its condition, resources, and prospective character, as more time would have afforded.

But we have seen some of its mountains and valleys. Some of its old settlers, in different places, and have some ideas of the Pacific slope, and the intermediate country, that we shall present from time to time to our readers.

But as we had not prepared anything for this number of the VISITOR before our return, and find, of course, some matters that require our personal attention, and the day of publication is so near, that we shall not attempt, in this number, a continuation of our California Letters.

## THE "GRANGE VISITOR."

With the issue of the VISITOR for June 1, we shall resume the management, for the State Grange of Michigan, of its official paper.

Without premiums or promises of jackknives or other claptrap, we shall, as heretofore, do what we can to furnish our subscribers with a good, sound, reliable exponent of Grange principles, and a medium of communication filled with matter so selected and revised as to be creditable alike to all concerned.

We are aware that no subscription list grows much without some work by somebody. We have heretofore depended mainly on the voluntary efforts of our friends for aid in extending the circulation of this paper, and we expect that in the future, as in the past, that the paper will rely on its merits and the good-will of its friends for support.

We are now publishing a thousand and more copies each edition than we did last year and should like to add another thousand before the close of this year. As an inducement to subscribe, we will send the VISITOR for the remaining seven months of the year to sub-

scribers, singly or in clubs, for 25 cents per copy; and, as heretofore, eleven copies will be sent for the price of ten. The eleventh copy will be sent free to any person sending us ten names, with the pay for the same.

Will Masters and Secretaries please call attention to this offer at the next meeting of their Grange; get some names and send us, with the money? A little effort will tell well for the Order in Michigan. Specimen copies sent free to any address.

## STATE AGENCIES.

Under the head of "Executive Committee Meeting," we find in the May number of the *State Grange News*, of Illinois, the following criticism on our article headed "Grange Agencies," in the VISITOR of March 15:

"The endorsement of Montgomery Ward & Co. as Grange agents, by the Michigan GRANGE VISITOR, was condemned as injurious to the Order, and especially to the properly authorized Grange agents, they being in no proper sense Grange agents or a Grange house—simply doing a business of their own, the same as any other house in business in their line."

While what we said of this firm in our article is true, this statement, that Montgomery Ward & Co. are not Grange agents, is also true, and it was, perhaps, a little careless on our part, in writing what we did of this firm, under such a heading; and we take pleasure in correcting any impression "injurious to the Order" or "to the properly authorized Grange agents," which our article may have created.

Our Grange agencies need and are entitled to the support of Patrons, wherever they have shown by their work that integrity and some special fitness for the position have been secured by the body or organization establishing such agency, and our article was written for the sole purpose of inducing more readers of the VISITOR to avail themselves of the advantages which these agencies in our great commercial centers afford, not only to the Order, but to all who see fit to use them.

We made reference to Montgomery Ward & Co. simply because we believed that that firm—pioneering as it did a new method of distributing goods to Patrons and to the people, at such advantageous prices as secured renewed orders and a growing trade for several years—had not only benefitted Patrons pecuniarily, but really strengthened for a time the Order itself. By the enterprise of that firm—as it has expended thousands of dollars annually in getting out and distributing full and complete catalogues—a knowledge of the prices of the goods used and needed by farmers, together with lots of things not needed by them, has been obtained by hundreds of thousands of people, and a spirit of co-operation cultivated and encouraged. By the very large amount of business done, this firm has probably made a good deal of money; but, as it has been done in a legitimate way and really advantageous to our people, we make no complaint. The firm are doing business on their own hook and in a way quite different from other concerns selling goods in Chicago. While they are undoubtedly quite responsible, yet they are under no bonds, either for good behavior, indemnity or otherwise; they are not and never have been Patrons.

The Michigan Lake Shore Fruit

Growers' Association have an agent in Chicago who is fully endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange. That agent, Bro. Thos. Mason, seems to be the right man in the right place, and we believe it not only for the interest of the Patrons of Michigan to patronize and sustain that agency, but also their imperative duty.

On our return trip, we stopped one day in Chicago and called on Montgomery Ward & Co. We found them doing a good business; clerks all busy packing goods to go in every direction, even to California and Oregon, on orders from Patrons, miners and all sorts of people.

When we got on to Water street, we found Bro. Mason overwhelmed with work, getting his new quarters in shape for his rapidly increasing business. He claims to have secured a foothold second to no other commission house on So. Water St. He not only received the first consignment of strawberries this season, but his daily receipts are greater than those of any other house in the city. The street usage of reporting to consignors daily sales by averages, thus sinking all the extra value of superior fruit, has not been adopted by him, but every man's fruit is sold on its merits—the owner gets full pay for the lot sent, less freight and commissions. As now located, Bro. Mason has ample room for handling wool, and expects a considerable number of consignments this season. We were glad to learn that his location is first-class and that he had fought his way to success among the old houses of the street, who made war on the Granger when he started business some two years ago.

Brother Patrons, is it not true that it only remains for us to take advantage of what we have learned since we became Patrons to realize nearly all the pecuniary benefits which a reasonable expectation ever promised? We hope that, whenever any of our people are in Chicago or Detroit, they will not fail to visit the agencies of the Order.

When in Chicago, we called at the office of Bro. Chambers, Secretary of the State Grange of Illinois and also State Agent and editorial manager of the *State Grange News*. He is located but two doors from Bro. Mason's place of business, but, as he was not in when we called, we are not prepared to make any report of the business of his office.

We find the "Farmer for Governor boom," so-called, has not been allowed to sleep the sleep that knows no waking, during our absence, and we are glad to know the fact. We believe it important that farmers talk with not a little, but with a good deal of independence about those political matters that concern them. Brother Patrons, let us hear from you. Tell us what you think about Congressional support of the Department of Agriculture; also, what you think about the "Governor Boom," and what you are going to do about it. We shall perhaps have something to say about this matter in the next number.

No Grange in this State has become dormant whose members are all readers of the GRANGE VISITOR. A word to the wise is sufficient. Take heed and learn from the experience of others, and the past.

C. L. W.

## Correspondence.

## Grange School.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

As our Master and Secretary have failed to respond to Prof. Beal's request, I will give you a brief statement in regard to the school held in our hall. The first term opened March 12th, 1877, which was a two months term; number of students, 18.

The last three years there has been two terms each year, the first term commencing about the first of October and continuing twelve weeks, the second beginning just after the holidays, continuing the same number of weeks, and closing with an entertainment given by the students, and the proceeds applied for the benefit of the school, or worthy objects.

The studies pursued are philosophy, rhetoric, algebra, and the common branches; tuition, \$4.00 per term. The number of students for the last three years has been from 25 to 40.

The school has been conducted from the first by Sister Eva White, who has had its entire supervision, and has labored with that zeal which ensures success. She is a graduate of the State Normal School, and had taught several years before taking charge of the school at our hall, is one of the charter members of our Grange, and is one of those who are quick to see the new facilities the Grange is opening up to the sons and daughters of farmers, and that the educational was far the most important, and should receive our first attention. She believed that farmers had it in their power to give their children better educational advantages at home, and while doing this they would benefit themselves and children also.

Sister White was one of those who has practiced her preaching, and like many others, has taken large risks for the good of the Order—but did not fail to put into the investment that enthusiastic effort that ensures success.

About 20 of the students have taught or are now teaching, and all have succeeded well, so far as I have learned.

J. C. ENGLISH.

Lowell, May, 1880.

## Not so Fast, Patrons!

HOWELL, April 26th, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I have read your columns with profit and pleasure for many years. In you I recognize the voice of our Order, uttering such sentiments as seem good for the advancement of the Order, and the members composing it. If I understood you correctly, you say to the agricultural classes, "Strive to promote a higher standard of manhood and womanhood within yourselves." Cultivate and improve the mental faculties by seeking knowledge in every direction possible, practice morality and virtue, to the end that all semblance of inferiority in our class may disappear. To accomplish this you bid us organize in the Grange. The rule of action you give us is, "In essentials, unity; in non-essential, liberty; in all things, charity," and you forbid our discussing partisan politics in the Grange. Your teachings have been good. I like them well.

But I want to scold a little now. This political boom—the boom for a farmer Governor, and all that, which your last few numbers have had considerable of, is very discordant to my mind. If we had the naming of every officer to be chosen in the State this year, it would not be of the slightest benefit to our Order. Undoubtedly we have men in our ranks fit to fill almost any position in the gift of the people, but can we spare them? Suppose J. J. Woodman is sent to Congress, F. M.

Holloway is made Governor, C. G. Luce is now in a high office, R. E. Trowbridge is Indian Commissioner, and many others have and would again fill high places with honor (and personally we could have no greater delight than to see their advancement), but should we not have to take up with second-rate men in their places? That one of our leaders who attains high public position, is spoiled for our use. These men are a shining light, and a power for good in our Order, and while their individual right is to attain to and accept the highest position possible, the voice of the Order should not hasten their departure from the places they now hold.

J. HARGER.

Girard Grange, No. 136.

COLDWATER, April, 25th, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Our Grange is prospering finely; the meetings are well attended, and are made interesting by reports from visiting committees and discussing questions from the question box.

Have had two open meetings the past winter; the first addressed by Bro. C. G. Luce and the last by Bro. C. E. Mickle; both were well attended by a goodly number of outside farmers, and were in every respect a success.

One of the most gratifying occurrences is that, at our last meeting, we initiated 15 new members, and have six more applications, and there are others anxious to join us.

Enclosed find \$6, for which send us 12 copies of the VISITOR to the following:

Fraternally yours,

G. W. VANAKEN,  
Master Girard Grange, No. 136.

## Notices of Meetings.

The next regular quarterly meeting of Kent County Grange, No. 18, will be held in the city of Grand Rapids, in the hall of the United Sons of Industry, Wednesday, June 16, 1880. The hour of opening is 10 A. M. All Fourth Degree members, who can make it convenient to do so, are invited to attend.

GEO. W. EWING, Sec.

Ross, Kent Co., Mich.

BERLIN, Ottawa Co., Mich., }

May 10, 1880.

Worthy Sec. J. T. Cobb:

Bro. Chas. E. Mickle will be present at the regular quarterly meeting of Western Pomona Grange, No. 19, to be held at the hall of Ravenna Grange Thursday, May 27. The program is about as follows: Meet at 11 A. M.; public dedication of the new hall at 1 P. M.; public lecture at 2:30 P. M.; fifth degree session in the evening; meet at 9 A. M. the next day; close at noon, have dinner and go home. There was a mistake in the notice given in the last VISITOR of the above meeting; it stated that it was to be held Thursday, May 28. It should have been Thursday, May 27.

Fraternally yours,

CHAS. W. WILDE, Sec.

Cass County Pomona Grange, No. 20, P. of H., will hold a meeting at Pokagon Grange Hall on the 26th day of May, 1880, at 10 A. M., for the installation of officers; Brother Thomas Mars will officiate. All fourth-degree Patrons are cordially invited to attend.

WM. E. WILLIAMS, Sec.

The May meeting of Clinton County Grange will be held at Keystone Grange Hall on the 26th inst., at 10 o'clock A. M. All Fourth Degree members are cordially invited to attend.

FRANK CONN, Sec.

GALESBURG, Mich., May 10, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

The next regular meeting of Kalama-zoo County Pomona Grange, No. 27, will be held Thursday, June 3, at the hall of Montour Grange, No. 49, in the village of Scotts. All Fourth Degree members are cordially invited to be present.

Fraternally,

Z. C. DURKEE, Sec.



## Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - MUSKEGON.

## Pickings by the Way, No. 8.

## NEW GRANGE IN IONIA.

Agreeable to previous correspondence we took the P. M. train on Tuesday, April 20th, and at six P. M. were at Ionia. The friend who had come to meet us was on hand with full knowledge of the signs he was sure to see, and by which he was to know us. He had been well instructed by Bro. M., who fearing his pupil might be mistaken and get the wrong man, some bummer, came also to the depot. But lo! the sign was wanting, yet with the quick eye of a detective, the sheriff soon recognized us and introduced us to Bro. Higbee, with whom we were soon going towards the scene of the labors of the evening. A new Grange was wanted, and just room to put it in, and not interfere with those now at work—in the corner of the four towns, Orleans, Ronald, Ionia, and Easton, Ionia Co. One thing occurred to us here. In this County where the Grange is strong and well organized, it is easiest to form a new one. Not knowing of the meeting of Ionia Pomona Grange on this day at a near point, there seemed likely to be a confusion at least. But no, the members of Ionia Pomona Grange came out very largely to our lecture and remained through the work of organization of Banner Grange, No. 640. In fact, there were about as many members of the Pomona Grange present as there were of the new Grange, which had thirty-one charter members. Bro. Henry J. Hall was elected and installed Master, and Bro. A. W. Strong, Secretary of this new Fraternity of Patrons of Husbandry.

The labors of the day completed, we went home with Bro. C. E. Higbee, where we made good use of the remainder of the night. A thought occurred to us while resting: Is it not the duty of the Granges now organized, co-operating, and working together under the lead of the Pomona Granges to see that every farmer in our State has the knowledge he should of our Order, and assistance be given to work up organizations at points suitable, but distant from present Granges? For an organization to be successful in its results, must be universal in its application. *All farmers and farmers' wives and daughters should aid in extending its benefits to all parts of our land.*

## EASTWARD.

At early morning of the 21st ult., we took train at Higbee station, about 20 rods from where we slept and ate, and changing at Ionia, took H., D., G. H. & M. R. R. to the east, where, in due time, reached Durand, where we waited and wrote, and waited until 6 P. M. for a train to Lapeer. The Chicago train came at last, but was so slow as to make us very late to reach Lapeer, which we did at last, and soon were abed and asleep.

## LAPEER COUNTY.

What is true of the prospects of the wheat crop in this County is equally true of all the Counties in this part of the State. Clinton, Shiawassee, Livingston, Genesee, and Lapeer, have each very flat land and heavy soils, upon which we noticed the wheat was generally quite poor. Some rough new lands gave better promise, while upon all the sandy, light soils, also upon the gravelly and well drained lands the promise of wheat is excellent.

From Lapeer we went to North Branch, and on the 23d, to Burnside,

where, in spite of rain and bad weather, we talked to quite a good attendance of people, including many of the earnest retainers of the Order from Montgomery Grange, No. 549, who had come six to seven miles over very bad roads, to be present at this meeting. We were a little disappointed that we could not re-organize this Grange, but think it is only a matter of time when Bros. Gates, Cole, Sinclair, and others, will have awakened sufficient interest here to put No. 1 again at the head. It ought to be the pride of every farmer as well as every Patron in this vicinity to see that this Grange is indeed No. 1. *"Attempt the end, and never stop to doubt; more difficult things have been brought about,"* is our advice to all who in such, or in any good undertaking hesitate.

A ride home with Bro. Montgomery convinced us that the roads were very bad, his wagon very strong, his team very good, and his interest and faith in the Grange very commendable. We had the pleasure of taking dinner and tea with Bro. and Sister Gates to-day in their new house, built since our visit to them in 1876. Sister Gates has poor health, yet is an earnest Patron and a worker.

The morning of April 24th, like many others of this month, was not promising, but inclined to fits of weeping—all of which did not keep us from writing, etc. Dinner brought Bro. Chas. Cole and wife, the first Master and Pomona of the first Grange in Michigan, organized Jan. 10th, 1872. See GRANGE VISITOR, April, 1875.

In the evening we went in company with a goodly number of the members of No. 549 to the northward of Marlette, where in a school-house we explained the objects and purposes of our Order, and organized Marlette Grange, No. 641, with its center in the north-east corner of the township of Burlington, Lapeer County. This Grange has twenty-eight members, with R. F. Wellwood, Master, and W. Roland, Secretary, and promises to be one of the working Granges of the State and County.

At a late hour we went home with Bro. Montgomery for rest, and sleep, to which the following morning was conducive, for the pattering of the rain upon the roof did not in the least disturb us or our slumbers. All day it rained. Wet enough before, still it rained and rained. We rested and read and—let it rain.

## Sow Seed.

If there is one thing that has often more than another taken our attention, and annoyed us more than any other, it is the want of knowledge among the people, and especially among the farmers, of the purposes and objects of our Order.

How can we get members? is the question often asked: By giving information, by getting farmers to read our literature, the VISITOR, our "Declaration of Purposes" and other Grange publications.

To get up a large and enthusiastic public meeting, it must be advertised, not simply by a few hand-bills, but by the circulation of a large amount of reading matter upon the subject-matter of the meeting.

Do you want a good attendance at your June festivals? Get a large number of extra copies of the VISITOR and the "Declaration of Purposes," and send one to every family you wish to have attend, with an invitation to come to the meeting. At the meeting have more copies at hand, and one or more persons ready to use them in getting subscribers, and thus secure

at least four permanent readers to each paper taken—spreading knowledge of the Order and awakening an interest in its growth and perpetuity, as well as in its objects and purposes. Sow seed! Let every Grange plant, and they shall reap.

## Visitor for Seven Months.

There are now seven full months more of the VISITOR in 1880, and to induce subscription to it we offer the balance of the year from June 1st, to December 31st, fourteen numbers, for 25 cents. Send in the names at once, that we may have an edition large enough printed. Let every officer, and brother and sister, each get at least one new subscriber during this month of May. We may thus double our list. Get every family within the Grange to take it, and also every neighbor farmer in your jurisdiction. Go at this to succeed, to win, to add to your Grange, to strengthen and increase our Order, and enlarge and extend its benefits. Don't wait until June begins, but set at work now, at once, and get a large list by the 1st of June. Work in your Grange meetings, and outside of them, work everywhere. All work, and work to win. Who will send in the largest list before June 1st, with the money, for six months or a year? Who?

## Sisters!

We seldom speak directly to the sisters of our Order, but the needs of the case bids us lay aside our native modesty, and say a word directly to you. Do you know that you can make our Order a grander success than it ever has been, if you will? No Grange ever became dormant that had a half dozen good working women in it. How can you make it successful? By making it pleasant and interesting. By making it attractive so that no one can afford to stay away. By first informing yourselves upon your duties in and towards the Grange and its members, and then insisting upon all others doing the same. Having awakened an interest within, extend your field of influence, and encourage those without to join with you in advancing the outposts of the only organization that has ever given woman her true position and justice.

SISTERS, by a united effort upon your part, you can more than double the circulation of the GRANGE VISITOR, and within six months. Will you do it? Let the sisters of each Grange see to it that every farmer's family in their jurisdiction takes the GRANGE VISITOR for at least six months.

## Strangers and Occasional Readers.

If you receive this number of the VISITOR it is a special invitation to you to subscribe, and get others to take it. Try it six months and see if you don't like it. It will cost you only 25 cents and if you send in your name and money before June 1st, you will get fourteen numbers for your money.

REMEMBER no Grange in this State has prospered where members have not some of them taken and read the VISITOR.

## Our Next Congressman.

The question who shall be our next candidate for Congressman this fall is being discussed in a quiet way by the Republicans of the Second Congressional District, in Washtenaw Co., which has not furnished a member of Congress since 1869, there is a general feeling that there will be no propriety in sending to the Convention a solid delegation in favor of the nomination of one of her own citizens. As to who that will be, we have heard but one name mentioned, and we are glad to say that the gentleman who

bears it is not unfriended, or without experience in the discharge of legislative duties. He is not only well known in his own county, but favorably known throughout the district and the State. It is gratifying to note such unanimity of sentiment as there is in Washtenaw County in favor of the nomination of J. Webster Childs, of Augusta.

From the very general expression of opinion which we hear, we feel confident that the Republicans of Washtenaw County desire the nomination of J. Webster Childs. They have tried him and he has always discharged the duties imposed upon him with ability and fidelity. While he is a farmer, (a fact which will add to his strength in this district), his views are broad, and he has a practical knowledge of our varied State interests, and a large legislative experience.

Our educational and charitable institutions, in which the people of Michigan have a just pride, have had no truer friend, or abler advocate than Mr. Childs, whose devotion to their interests must everywhere be recognized. The Agricultural College, with which he has been specially identified, is largely indebted to his efforts for its present prosperous condition and national reputation.

He is a pure man, upright in character, and unflinching in his devotion to Republican principles.

The Republicans of Washtenaw Co., and of the Second District would do honor to themselves in nominating and electing him as their next Representative to Congress.—*Ann Arbor Register.*

## ADVICE TO GRANGE OFFICERS.

READ BEFORE WOODMAN GRANGE, No. 610, BY E. THOMAS, M. D.

God first ordained that man should be

A Patron of Husbandry;

He sent him forth to sow the seeds,

To plant, and hoe, and kill the weeds.

And by hard labor and honest toil,

To live and cultivate the soil.

The calling, high and noble then,

The only one God gave to men.

The father taught it to the son.

Back at the time the world began:

The same law, governs now as then,

When first God gave it unto men.

Other callings, of man's invention,

Have filled our world with such contention

That, to protect the farmers' right,

We formed the Grange you see to-night,

Where honest farmers meet together,

Advise, instruct, and help each other.

Now, brother Grangers, let us try,

As days and years are passing by,

To love and favor one another

As we journey on together.

We must learn ourselves, and now begin it,

Make the world better for being in it;

Then love and union will abound

Where e'er true Grangers can be found,

For friendship feeds the hungry soul,

When merit underlies the whole.

Now, to the Master I would say,

Do well your duty, day by day;

Over the Grange, have a watchful eye,

As weeks and months are rolling by.

Should you see members, in our hall,

Show disrespect, give them a call,

And see that he, or she's, made right,

Should any fault appear in sight.

Over the Grange, may you preside,

And rule with dignity and pride;

See that no hasty word is spoken,

By which our harmony would be broken.

## OVERSEER.

Now, to our Overseer we say,

Your duty extends from day to day,

For you must oversee the Grange,

To keep all right, I'd think it strange—

For if you do so, it must take

One-half your time while your awake.

Not only in the hall preside,

You have a duty still, outside,

A kind of watch-care, which may be

Irk some to you—'twould be to me.

Still let it be your great delight

To watch o'er members, and keep them right,

Instruct each laborer in his work,

And see that none are bound to shrink.

Obeys the Master, and with grace,

In his absence, fill his place;

And see that none from duty fall,

But keep a watchful eye o'er all.

## LECTURER.

Worthy Lecturer, may you impart

And seal instruction to each heart.

Yours is a pleasant task indeed,

Instructing brethren in our creed.

May each address that you impart

Find a lodging in each heart;

May reason guide you all your days,

And keep you in her pleasant ways.

## STEWARDS.

Worthy Steward, it is required of you

That you prove faithful, kind and true;

Set each new laborer at his toil,

And teach him to prepare the soil:

And see that each receives his due

That labors faithfully and true.

'Tis yours to guide all o'er the farm,  
And see that brothers meet no harm,  
To see Grange property secured  
You'll soon to this become inured.  
Use the spade where a noxious weed  
Springs up, to scatter baneful seed,—  
And see the fields are well prepared,  
And that no needful work is spared,  
That, when the reaping time shall come,  
You'll take the sheaves in gladness home.

## ASSISTANT STEWARD.

Brother, guard well the inner gate,  
Assist the Steward, and on him wait.  
Your emblem is the pruning hook,  
First mentioned in the holy Book,  
To teach mankind to war no more,  
But love each other and God adore.  
Lop off each worthless branch, and see  
The beauties of the well-pruned tree—  
Then will its fruit be large and fair,  
And show the benefits of care.

## BRO. CHAPLAIN.

The Book of books is in your care,  
All man need know is written there,  
It teaches all a man need know—  
To till the soil, to reap and mow.  
It speaks of seed, likewise of soil;  
It tells our needs, and bids us toil.  
It points us to a heaven above,  
Where all is harmony and love.  
The precious precepts in it given  
Will lead direct from earth to heaven.  
Then let me charge you to faithful be  
To God and man, the Grange and thee.

## BRO. TREASURER.

We have confided in you long,  
And never yet have known a wrong.  
Go on, as you have gone before,  
And faithfully guard the Grangers' store.

## BRO. SECRETARY.

Arduous duties devolve on you,  
To keep the records, and keep them true.  
You are the organ of the Grange,  
Then keep all right within your Grange,  
And faithful may your record be,  
In time and in eternity.

## BRO. GATE KEEPER.

Be ever watchful at your post,  
And guard ye well the Granger host,  
See that none our pleasures share  
But those we've chosen to be there.  
Let not an enemy come near,  
To rob our fields or sow the tare;  
But if any would their presence lend,  
First be convinced that he's a friend.  
If you are right, although a stranger,  
Perhaps in time he'll make a Granger.  
Keep bright the jewels in your care,  
Protect the laborer everywhere,  
And see that he is clothed and fed,  
And that his children have their bread.

## CERES.

Worthy Sister, be watchful ever,  
Guard the sickle, and with care;  
Thrust it in the fields, and never  
Cease to cut the weeds and tares.  
Bind them up with care and burn them,  
The little faults our neighbors wear,  
Look to our sisters, but do not scorn them,  
For love and truth are centered there.  
A goddess once, but now no longer  
You the title hope to wear.  
Be firm, be just, be wise and stronger,  
Will you be for all your care.

Ceres was, in ancient fable,  
The name of corn when deified—  
We can't tell now, nor are we able  
To seek a cause which time must hide.

Still your duty lies before you,  
Cease not your labor till it's done;  
Impart fair wisdom's lessons true  
To those, at least, who have just begun,

## POMONA.

The wreath you have upon your head,  
Emblem alike of truth and love;  
Oh, may its lessons ever shed  
A light to those that round you move.  
Those blossoms teach that bye and bye  
The mellow fruit, so nice and fair,  
Will come to bless and please the eye,  
And with sweet fragrance fill the air.

## FLORA, SISTERS.

May garlands of flowers forever be thine,  
And all their sweet fragrance be shed,  
May you oft in some arbor on lilies recline  
And make of the roses your bed.

## STEWARDS.

Conduct our young sisters on their lone way  
And see that their feet do not stumble,  
Guide them aright, and they'll not wish to stray,  
They're our sisters, though ever so humble.  
The crook of the shepherd is given to you,  
It teaches you kindness and love,  
Be a guide to our sisters, be kind and be true,  
That at last we may all meet above.

Now, Bro. Grangers, let each choose the right,  
And strive to improve every day,  
Let us move on, in our strength and our might,  
Till all opposition gives way.  
January, 1880.



# KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP.

My boy, as you travel this mundane sphere,  
You will find many things exceedingly queer.  
That often will cause you to open your eyes  
In a manner expressive of greatest surprise.  
When you arouse from a golden dream,  
And discover that things are not what they  
seem;

If sickle Miss Fortune should give you the slip,  
Look her square in the face with a stiff upper  
lip.

If folks pass you by with a cynical sneer,  
Because in fine clothing you cannot appear;  
Never be cast down by trifles like that,  
Though ragged your jacket and napless your  
hat.

If your heart is all right, and level your head,  
Supposing that you can show "nary a red,"  
They have dollars, you sense, and that's the best  
grip;  
Meet them square in the face with a stiff upper  
lip.

If your girl should forsake you for some other  
fellow,  
Don't act like a calf and foolishly bellow,  
For girls handle their cards with a gambler's  
art.  
Off playing the deuce with a fellow's poor  
heart;

Let them play a lone hand awhile at the game;  
If it's diamonds they seek, let them work for  
the same.  
There's as good fish in the sea as ever did nip,  
Your luck may turn yet; keep a stiff upper lip.

So, my boy when you buffet the wind and the  
wave,  
Remember life's voyagers should ever be brave,  
Though tempests may gather and breakers may  
roll,  
Keep your boat in deep water, look out for the  
shoal;  
When the waves are dark, look aloft to the  
stars,  
If the vessel is wrecked, why cling to the spar;  
Heed the old maxim, "Don't give up the ship,"  
Whose anchor is hope; keep a stiff upper lip.

## Communications.

### Do Farmers Need an Education?

Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:

What knowledge and education does the farmer need to enable him to become successful in his calling? In attempting to reply to the above question, I will endeavor to give a few ideas as to what constitutes a successful farmer. This term, as I understand it, has quite a broad application. We are not to suppose that a farmer is successful from the mere fact that he has massed a large property, or has a fine farm, well stocked with good horses, cattle, sheep and swine—all well fed and properly cared for. In fact, having his farm in first-class order in every respect does not prove conclusively that he is a successful farmer. To be such, he must be a good citizen, well informed and always willing to use his means for the benefit of the human race. His family must be well governed and well instructed in the calling which they are expected to follow in life. In fact, the successful farmer must be, in all the relations of life, a true man, working not for the present only, but for the future as well. The farmer should have a thorough business education. He should be able to speak and write the language of his country correctly. He should understand mathematics, as applied to the ordinary business affairs of life, that he may keep his accounts in a way to be easily referred to and easily understood. He should be a student of history, that he may be able to trace the human family from the earliest dawn to the present time. History corrects many false impressions, and is the best guide to good government and the prosperity of nations. We are frequently told that the human race is degenerating, especially in morality; but any student of history will tell you such is not the case. History presents to our view a panorama of past ages, and inculcates lessons that are of lasting benefit. Let history be one of the studies of the farmer.

Agriculture is the base upon which rests all other occupations, and as the farmers, in this country, constitute a majority of the people; upon them the very fabric of our government depends for support. Then let them be well acquainted with the history of great nations that have existed in the past, and study well the causes of their decline and fall, that, when they see the same influences at work upon our own country, they may rally for the right and stand as a wall to save her from the fate of ancient kingdoms and republics. Farmers, and in fact, all others, should study carefully the history of their own country and

the biography of her great men. When we read of our Washington, our Adams, our Hancock, our great and noble Franklin, and many others, who have given their talents and their lives, that we may enjoy what we now possess, does it not stimulate our patriotism and make us proud of our great country and its great men?

Farmers should educate themselves by observation, by close reasoning from cause to effect. I have known farmers who could scarcely write their own names, yet they were better educated, in all that makes a successful farmer, than others who thought they knew all that was to be found out about farming, by reading Greeley's "What I Know about Farming" and similar publications, written by men who learned the art of successful farming by leaning over the barnyard gate; but, when they tried to put their theories into practice, their lack of that practical knowledge which is gained only by observation and experience insured their failure. Some go so far as to say that every farmer should be a practical chemist, that he be able to analyze the soil and thus determine what ingredients are wanted to insure good crops. When the laboratory of the chemist is established on every farm, we shall see some wonderful developments. I do not claim to be very well informed about such matters, but I have in some manner received the impression that chemists do not always become the most successful farmers, but frequently fail when they undertake that calling. But then, they have one consolation: if cabbages, as Mark Twain says, brought eleven dollars a head, their model farms would pay. Farmers need experience and observation more than they need chemistry, to make farming pay. A general, to be successful, must, as a rule, be educated by actual experience in the art of which he expects to become master. A farmer must have talents equal to those of a great general, to successfully carry on the farm. An army cannot be successful unless the general understands all the little as well as the great things that pertain to supporting an army, keeping it together and having it act as one man when opposing an enemy. It is the same with the farmer. His forces must be always well in hand; his teams and tools in good condition; his work well planned, as a good general plans a campaign before he commences it, and he must see that every one in his service does his whole duty, and does it in season. To know how to manage hired help is certainly a great qualification, should be fully understood by the farmer. "The eye of the master does more work than both his hands," therefore he should use his eyes to good purpose when looking after his help.

A farmer should have a thorough knowledge of all bugs and worms that prey upon his crops, that he may be prepared to destroy them and protect himself from their ravages. And, while he is studying the subject of bugs, he should not forget to pay some attention to "humbug" so that, when bored by lightning rod, wire clothes line, cheap package, or Jackson wagon agents, he may make them realize, in terms not to be misunderstood, that "distance lends enchantment to the view," as far as they are concerned. There is certainly no class upon the face of the earth which has suffered so much from swindlers as the farming class. The reason is obvious. Farmers in the past lived isolated lives, and they were swindled in detail, and all for the want of the very knowledge which is taught in the Grange. Let a swindler come into a neighborhood of live Grangers, united and working for each others' interest, and his stay is short. He prefers to work where each farmer "goes it on his own hook." There he knows that he can string them all on his hook without much trouble. Every farmer should know his best interest is served by joining the Grange, and doing all he can to enlighten and strengthen the farming class. Standing alone, he is a mere cipher; united with his brother

farmers, he becomes a power. Before the Grange movement, the farming community was like a mob, without order or discipline. When one portion made a move for reform, the other would fall back like a team addicted to seersawing, one pulling, the other flying back, till both were thoroughly tired out, without moving the load. The impositions of sharpers and speculators have at length aroused a portion of the farming community, yet there are many who, it appears, do not wish to have their shackles removed, and seem to be sleeping that sleep that knows no waking, as far as their true interests are concerned. As Grangers, we should do all in our power to arouse them from their lethargy, and make them see in what direction their interests lie. For if the present movement fails, and the Grange is allowed to sink into oblivion, it will be a long time before any other organization will arise to take its place. Let us then try to remove the scales from the eyes of those farmers who oppose the Grange, that they may say, "Whereas I was blind I now see." Let us lay aside our mock modesty, and when we see a farmer whom we think would make a live Granger, say to him, Would you like to join the Grange? If so, I will inform you how to make your application, assisting you all in my power. Give him a copy of our Declaration of Purposes, and tell him to read it carefully, and point out to you all its objectionable features. If he finds none, then tell him to fall in line and join the Grange. How long would our Churches exert the power they now do if they were too modest to ask anyone to join them. I believe when I find anything good, it is my duty to entice others to partake of the same. Let us then act the part of missionaries, as it were, and see if good results do not follow, and there will be such an awakening among the sleepy farmers as will cause their enemies, the sharks and speculators, to emigrate to some more congenial clime, where the Patrons cease from troubling, and swindlers can ply their trade without molestation.

### Education of Farmers' Children.

The following essay was read by A. N. Woodruff, at the Buchanan Farmers' Institute, January 12th, 1880:

MR. PRESIDENT: In responding to the duty assigned me by your committee, I do so with the firm conviction that what little I may say will scarcely cause a ripple in the minds of those whom this subject should most deeply interest, or be the means of any genuine reform; yet, notwithstanding this, and that my labor may be unproductive of immediate good, and perhaps wholly in vain, I do not hesitate to contribute my mite toward inculcating a truer conception, a more careful consideration, and a more perfect understanding of this important topic, beside which most others sink into comparative insignificance.

Not that it is paramount to all others to be considered at this time, for if that were the case, other and more able ones than I would have been assigned to this work; but to farmers in general, to those who are directly interested—in short, to those who are responsible for the manner in which the education of farmers' children is begun, developed and consummated, it is, and should be considered, the vital question of the hour, the one upon which there should be placed concentrated thought, united action, persistent and unremitting activity. When we have given to our charge the training and development of the youthful mind, than which there is nothing more precious, there comes with this gift a responsibility from which none can escape, an accountability for which all adult persons must answer, be they high or low, rich or poor, and a duty which, to discharge creditably, requires our purest thoughts, our most worthy ambitions, and most holy endeavors.

With this great work before us, asking by its fruits for better encourage-

ment, pleading by its purity for more beneficent treatment; aye, demanding by an array of vice, crime and ignorance truly appalling, more fostering care, more ardent sympathy, and a greater degree of perfection, can we hesitate in placing ourselves upon a free enlightened, and liberal educational platform? Can we afford to become weary or discouraged in striving to make more perfect every factor in the solution of this important problem? First among which I would place that of the home and family circle.

Parents, too commonly, fail to realize the force and power of early instruction in the formation of the character and development of the mind. A parent, to a great extent, holds the destiny of his child in the hollow of his hand. He has the training and development of the mind in charge, when it is as plastic and yielding as the potter's clay, when impressions are easily made, and habits are quickly formed; when proper care and discipline will strengthen the mind, develop the intellect, and form habits of industry, honesty and economy much more rapidly than in after years; when a love for the good, the true, and the beautiful is inherent, and is easily increased and strengthened; when example is as potent a teacher as precept; and when, if he has a pure and worthy love for his child, every purpose, act and thought, either in conversation or otherwise, will be analyzed and given with the express purpose of creating happiness, purity and excellence in the life and character of his offspring. This is the correct rule in life, but too seldom is it observed; and in its stead, passion, avarice and the love of present pleasure wield the sceptre.

Not long ago I heard a parent say, in reference to his only child, a son of four years, that if some people had that boy he would amount to something, but he never would with him; and I think he spoke the truth, for he neither teaches his child obedience, nor exercises a reasonable care in the choice of his language, as he indulges in the use of profane and vulgar words—though, as his mouth is made foul by the use of tobacco, this may not be wondered at. How that child, and all others similarly situated, are to be pitied! for they are not learning to respect the aged, to reverence the pure and holy, nor to obey the wishes and instructions of their parents. If there is one thing that I would urge more forcibly than another, it is that the child be taught obedience—taught to obey father and mother and to respect all higher authority. Resorting to cruel and severe measures as a means to reach this desired end, is neither necessary or wise; but rather show by act, word and deed an unflinching determination to do right and to have right done; to realize the nature, habits and tastes of the child, and to act accordingly, and to honor, respect and obey all mandates emanating from a higher and proper authority. With the education in the home and at the fire-side properly begun and maintained, the way is paved for carrying forward to a successful issue the education which the child ought to receive in our common schools—the second important department of instruction which claims our attention. I place it next to the home training, because it is intimately associated with the home; because it is well nigh universal, and because it furnishes at least nine-tenths of all the mental culture and discipline which farmers' children receive. That farmers, as a class, do not manifest sufficient interest in the welfare, prosperity and success of our common schools; that they give this great and noble work less thought, less care, and less study than ought to be given to the most trivial and commonplace affairs of farm life; and that the hope of the farmer, of the people, and of the Nation depends upon the purity and excellence of this department of instruction, are facts that require but little thought or observation to make plain.

The standard and work of our common schools rest with the farmers; they control the system, hire the teachers, and are responsible for the successes and failures, merits and demerits.

Our general plan of diffusing education is a broad, enlightened and liberal one; and if it were not injured by unwise legislation, and a bad standard of economy, would have a much greater power for good than its most enthusiastic supporters can now claim for it.

Next in order, though none the less important, is our Agricultural College, and I tremble for its success and permanency, when compelled to note the opposition which it has to encounter at every session of our State Legislature, some of the most bitter and determined of which is found among farmers,—among those whose interests it is calculated to promote; and who ought to use all honorable means to further its cause, increase its usefulness, and place it upon a sure and firm foundation of permanent prosperity.

Place permanently within the boundaries of each township one or more active and energetic graduates of this College, and you have secured an influence and power that will be felt in aiding the interests of general education and progressive agriculture, the results of which will be beneficial and durable. Much is being said and written at the present day that favors the introduction into our common schools of a text book on the science of agriculture. To some this may appear both feasible and wise, but I am of the opinion that until teachers who thoroughly understand its principles can be obtained, that the effort would be fruitless.

But there is a factor in our system of education which has recently appeared, into which a text-book on agriculture may be successfully introduced. I refer to the "grange high-school." Where these schools are properly appreciated and managed, a want long-felt and universal is supplied. But few as yet have been established, though wherever they have had competent instructors and an interested people, their success has been assured.

In brief, I would say, bring into the family circle everything possible that is refining, instructive, and pleasing. Let the children feel and know that you are interested in their work, in their amusements, and in their studies. Love and honor your vocation, and they will go and do likewise. Teach them to attend with regularity the common school, and to be interested in its work; and when their work here is finished, send them to the Agricultural College. If more space is needed, send men to represent you in our Legislature, who will vote to enlarge its capacity. And aid by your voice, vote, influence, and pocket-book, everything that tends to improve our educational facilities, or to diffuse a love for education among the masses.

### Osego Grange, No. 364.

Osego, April 23d, 1880.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I see in the Visitor communications from many Granges, but seldom anything from ours. It has been rather on the down hill road for the last two years, until last winter, when it seemed to feel a reaction, and it has been gaining ground the last few months.

On the 13th of April we gave the two last degrees to fifteen candidates, and after that we partook of a bounteous feast, as good as it was plentiful. We had a very nice time, and I hope we shall have many more of the same kind.

There seems to be a livelier interest and a better attendance than we have had for two or three years.

Our Worthy Lecturer makes out a program for every meeting, of something to make it interesting, and he has placed a question box upon the table, to give a chance to those that are diffident. They can ask questions without being found out.

If you think this little account of us is worthy of a place in your Visitor, you may publish it.



## Ladies' Department.

## TIED MOTHERS.

A little elbow leans upon your knee—  
Your tired knee that has so much to bear;  
A child's dear eyes are looking lovingly  
From underneath a thatch of tangled hair.  
Perhaps you do not heed the velvet touch  
Of warm, moist fingers, holding yours so  
tight,  
You do not prize the blessing overmuch,  
You are almost too tired to pray to-night.

But it is blessedness; a year ago  
I did not see it as I do to-day;  
We are so dull and thankless, and too slow  
To catch the sunshine till it slips away.  
And now it seems surpassing strange to me  
That while I wore the badge of motherhood,  
I did not kiss more oft and tenderly  
The little child that brought me only good.

I wonder so that mothers ever fret  
At little children clinging to their gown,  
Or that the foot-prints when the days are wet,  
Are ever black enough to make them frown.  
If I could find a little muddy boot,  
Or cap, or jacket, on my chamber floor,  
If I could kiss a rosy, restless foot,  
And hear its patter in my house once more.

If I could mend a broken cart to-day,  
To-morrow make a kite to search the sky,  
There is no woman in God's world than I  
Shame more blissfully content than I.  
But ah! the dainty yellow next my own  
Is never rumpled by a shining head;  
My singing birdling from its nest is flown,  
The little child I used to kiss—is dead.

## Are the Present Fashions a Blessing or a Curse to the Ladies of the Nineteenth Century.

I think that, to a great extent, fashion has been, and is, a blessing, both to ladies and gentlemen, for had it not been for fashion, much of the ingenuity of our age had been of no avail. We would not know of the vast stores of wealth laid up for us by a kind Providence, and waiting only for the hand of ingenuity to wrest it from its hiding place, and make of it something both useful and ornamental.

Of what use would the silk-worm be were it not that fashion says we would like to make beautiful garments from the silk which they spin? Immediately some one begins to revolve in his mind how this can be made into a form so as to be utilized for the pleasure of others, and be beneficial to himself; and he does not rest until it has been spun and woven into a fabric so pleasing to all lovers of fashion. He has accomplished a two-fold object: he has not only become opulent by so doing, but he has also developed the talent within him? But had he not known that the ladies of fashion would desire this article, what would have been the object in spending the best part of his life in producing something which would bring him no remuneration.

This is an age of advancement, and who would wish that fashion should not keep pace with the other improvements which are being made.

God implanted in our souls a love for the beautiful, and in all that He has made we can witness the wondrous taste which He has displayed.

Behold the trees as they put forth their lovely foliage! Are they not being trimmed by the hand of God. Even the ground which we tread upon is covered with a carpet of grass and moss, interspersed here and there with daisies and buttercups, these again are the trimmings with which God has adorned His footstool.

Why, then, should we hear complaining because God's people try, in their feeble way, to follow the example which He has given us? The trees would subserve their purpose as fuel just as well were there no foliage upon their limbs, but how dreary would be the aspect.

The notes of the little songsters, as they warble their merry lays would be just as sweet were all of their feathers of a sombre hue; but behold the beautiful plumage which God has given them! Do we not all love to watch these gay colored little songsters and think of the kind forethought of Him who gave them their diversity of color, that our eyes might not tire of the monotony which would otherwise exist.

God formed the earth and placed us herein, and whatever we are to be, we must make ourselves. He has also given us a spirit of emulation, a desire to be equal to or even to excel those

whom we consider worthy of imitation.

In what other or better way can we hope to rise, than by following the fashions of to-day? Fashion has had a great influence in bringing our Nation to its present state of civilization. When it became fashionable to seek after knowledge, and to despise ignorance, when it was found that in knowledge there is power, civilization took a long stride towards advancement.

Fashion only devises means by which we may utilize the power which God has given us. Were it not that fashion sanctions the use of gold and diamonds as fit articles for ornamentation, they would be of no more value than a piece of iron or stone, and we would never have known how beautiful they could be made.

Had it not been for fashion, the log huts of forefathers would not have been replaced by the beautiful dwellings which now please the eye, and which everywhere indicates advancement.

Where ever we look we may see the effects produced by fashion, and I think that most of them are far from being a curse. See the cities which have been and are being built; what are they but the fruits of fashion.

If this be true, then think of the thousands who find employment in erecting these cities, thereby enabling them to support their families and provide a home in which they may rest when age or disease overtakes them.

Now, with regard to the fashion of dress, I believe that it is our duty to make ourselves as pleasing and attractive to the eye as possible. If I have been given a homely face, and fashion suggests to me some little art by which I may render it more attractive, as that of arranging my hair in a becoming manner, with here a puff and there a curl, is it not a duty I owe to myself and friends, to accept it and profit thereby?

How often do we hear our gentlemen friends speak of the time which the ladies waste in making fancy work, and yet, perhaps, the same ones will tell us to make our homes attractive, that the husbands and children may think home the dearest spot on earth.

Of course I do not think that the only way to make it so is by filling it with these articles, for there are qualities of the heart which can do more than all else; but how we all love to see a bright, cheery room, and many of the inexpensive little articles which Dame Fashion plans for us, add so much to its beauty, and ought to endear them to the household, because of the loving hands which fashioned them.

Some husbands will rave about the beauties of spring, as it comes heralded by the singing of birds, and the blooming of early flowers, when fruit trees are decked with their snowy blossoms, and the whole earth is teeming with beauty; and indeed it is beautiful and worthy of all his praise. But when his wife, after spending a dreary winter, over-taxed with the ever-multiplying cares of the household, catches the inspiration of the surrounding loveliness, and desires to be in harmony with Nature, and to freshen the charms which first attracted her companion to her side; should she but suggest to her liege lord that she desires a new spring bonnet, with a few of (but imitation of) those flowers which he so much admired, he will immediately commence to rail about the fashions, that they are going to ruin him, etc.

The wife, after being repeatedly denied the means by which she might gratify a reasonable and commendable taste for the common amenities of life, and she, after having had her once keen perceptions blunted and her intellect dwarfed, will be assailed by him as being stupid, and he will seek amusement in the society of others who have had a more generous treatment, and who are fashionable in their attire and sparkling in intellect, forgetting that had his wife received the treatment which she justly deserved, she would have been superior to them all.

Thus far I have spoken of fashion being a blessing to the ladies, but in so doing, of course I did not include those terrible fashions in which some men love to indulge. Now I suppose that my brothers are wondering what these can possibly be, I think that I hear some of you say, "Why, we don't wear street sweepers, puffs, ruffles, bangs nor pin-backs." Well, we will admit all that, but then you have other fashions which quite equal ours. For instance, a gentleman who wishes to be in style will don a tall hat, set it very much on one side, I suppose to balance his head, and strut off with the air of one who has conquered a city, when in fact it is nothing but his own good sense which he has conquered. These aforesaid gentlemen also love to congregate upon a street corner and calmly await the coming of some female, to whom they may exhibit their grandness by giving them a prolonged stare and a look which plainly says, "Am I not exquisite?" But there is yet one fashion to which I look forward with great interest, and happy will be the day when it shall arrive. It is the time when it shall be the fashion for the farmers of our country to occupy the positions to which they are justly entitled. When it shall be the fashion for them all to exercise brain power as well as muscular. When, instead of being mere drudges, they shall assert their just right to rank with the most intelligent of our people; and this fashion will surely come.

The diamond, in its natural state, is enclosed in a thin crust, and to all appearances is of no more value than an ordinary pebble, but when this crust has been broken, the beauty of the gem within is revealed.

Just so it is with many of our farmers. They are possessed of natural talents, equal to those engaged in other professions; but in constantly employing their muscular powers, they have allowed a crust of ignorance to form over and hide these talents; but it only requires a few strokes with the hammer of knowledge to break this crust and reveal the brilliancy of the intellect within.

BELLE HULL.

Grange No. 76.

## A Talk with the Sisters.

Dear Sisters of the Grange: I have thought for some time that I would like to have a good chat with you, so I take this opportunity. I am alone, and it is raining very hard, and I am feeling quite lonesome. So, now if our worthy editor is willing, you will hear a few words from your unpretentious sister. It has been with many misgivings that I have written for the VISITOR. I know full well there are those better qualified. But I love the Grange cause so well; it has been the means of bringing out and developing our latent faculties to such a wonderful degree, that I think it strange there are not more of the sisters willing to jot down a few ideas, especially about their work. I think we might be of great help to each other if we would do so. There are no two that do their work alike, but there is a convenient way, and one that is not convenient. We should always have some forethought about our work, so we may be able to save time and strength. I think it is strength that the most of us need nowadays, to keep up with the present style of dress, and the great amount of fine cookery that has to be done when we entertain company. Now sisters, do you like this fashion? If you do, I don't. We are wearing ourselves out for naught; yes, and helping to shorten the lives of others by cooking so many rich dishes, and so many kinds to be eaten at one meal. It is more than one-half that this present generation—that of eating and drinking too much. And shall we keep right on killing ourselves, or shall we adopt a plainer and more rational style of living? My theory is to eat just such things as agree with us. Do not keep eating anything because you like it, for it will

injure you just the same. I have thought if physicians would make out a bill of fare, just such as we need to build up the human structure, and keep it in running order, they would be greater benefactors to the world than they now are. They would not have to invent their patent nostrums to cure us. But there are other things we must learn, among which are the laws of our being, and these we can learn, for there are many good works on physiology which cost but little; so we are to blame for a good share of our ignorance. We must understand what nature requires of us, and submit to her rules, and be temperate in all things, if we would enjoy good health. Our noble Order teaches it, the Bible teaches it, and the laws of our being teach it, and we cannot so transgress without suffering the penalty. My dear sisters, I wish you to know that I am reaping the reward of my transgressions. I am, old beyond my years, my eyes are poor, my hands tremble, and I lack the strength and vigor that should be mine at my age. I think it has been caused by over-work, and over-eating when too tired. We must remember that our stomachs cannot digest food properly when we are tired. It will sour and that causes dyspepsia. But there is one thing I am not guilty of, and that is wearing corsets. I never wore one more than four days in my life, and it didn't seem to me that they should be worn. It was the most uncomfortable thing I ever wore, and I had Dr. Moore's health corset at that. It seems cruel to let our girls wear them, especially before they get their growth. They say they don't lace, but I have known the round robust form to change very suddenly after putting on corsets. I think if our girls' clothing was made loose like our boys' (now don't laugh for they can be made to set smooth and look nice too), and let them romp out of doors enough to get the strength and vim that our boys have, they would be just as healthy as our boys are. If the world needs one thing more than another, it is strong, healthy women; and it is for the mothers to say whether we shall have them or not. And fathers too, see that you have a care in the instruction and education of both your sons and your daughters.

Well I have scribbled perhaps more than will find its way into the VISITOR. I have written some things I did not intend to write when I commenced, but hope I have not said anything amiss. I meant to have said more about the Grange, about cooking healthy food, etc., but will have to wait till another time, if Bro. Cobb is lenient with me this time. Sisters, write. Love to you all.

AUNT KATE.

## A Rather Partial Criticism—Schooling.

## Worthy Brothers and Sisters:

What is going to be done with Bro. Woodman for making the VISITOR so interesting that we cannot leave it until entirely read? If I had not finished house-cleaning in time to attend the last Grange, Bro. Woodman would be the one to bear the blame; or if I had not finished for another week, it would have been the same, for I should not miss that meeting or any other one, so long as I had the VISITOR to keep my courage up.

But let me tell you how it was. Tuesday evening last, I had just got into the merits of housecleaning, when, at about five o'clock, the GRANGE VISITOR was brought in. Of course we had to inspect and comment on the portrait of Worthy Bro. Cobb. After which, the paper was laid away to await a leisure moment.

When the milking and supper were over with, and "the Granger girl" was washing dishes; No. 2 holding a secret session in her own room, discussing "Stocks and Brokerage;" No. 3 in the kitchen, deep in the intricacies of "long division;" No. 4, the only boy of the lot, fast asleep in bed, not troubling his precious head with math-

ematics, or any other *ics*. I thought to help on the work for the next day, so I took the whitewash brush and worked away for a time; put the pipe on the stove, made a fire, replaced a few articles, and when the rest were safe in bed, sat me down to enjoy the fire's moment. I took up the VISITOR and—well, I read, and I read, and kept on reading, until the fire was nearly out; I had turned the paper right side out and began folding it, when these words met my eye, "Read the address of Rev. Thos. K. Beecher." Flip!—The sheet is open to the page, and I begin. I read and re-read, and read again, and would you believe it, the clock strikes twelve before I am ready to leave that page. The consequence is, I did not get up till after six next morning; then at breakfast I mention that address,—no getting to the plow for the "gude mon" until that is looked into a *little*, and there is no getting that "Granger girl" to putting that room to rights until that address is read again.

So you see that our house-cleaning does not get on very fast. It does seem as though our little paper became more interesting with each issue. Nothing to censure—all to approve.

I am much interested in schools, and there are a few thoughts I wish to present. A friend, one who has had experience both as a teacher and a superintendent, once said to me: "Girls learn faster at school than boys up to the age of sixteen years, at which age boys, as a rule, begin to develop a greater interest, and girls to lose interest in books, in the same proportion."

Has any reader of the VISITOR marked this? and if this be true, what a great and lamentable fact it is that so many farmers' boys are taken from school before they reach the age to become really interested in education. It sometimes seems to me that boys should be compelled to attend school until they acquire such an interest in learning that nothing will turn them from it. People say, "Oh, you cannot compel boys to learn if you do compel them to attend school." "Constant dropping wears the rock." If that boy knows you are determined to keep him in school, he must be learning something, and once convinced that you mean to keep him there, he will begin to develop his mind in spite of himself. Then it is with the parents to see what the school is, and that proper teachers are employed therein, and then we will not feel compelled to admit that the rising generation are not as well qualified for business as those who are now passing away. I know of neighborhoods where such is the lamentable fact.

Again, when the boys leave the school at thirteen or fourteen, there is no restraint upon the girls, and instead of striving to so conduct themselves as to gain the esteem of all their school-mates, they become careless and if they do not leave school, their minds are filled with nothing beneficial. They do not strive to advance in books, or in any other way. There are communities where schools have been almost ruined by the practice of allowing boys to stop attendance, and where a few forward girls have led the rest.

But I have written more than I intended already, so I will wait to hear from others on school matters, in which each Patron needs to be deeply interested. Fraternally,

MRS. HELEN FINCH.

## A Fertilizer for Strawberries.

An experiment made last year by myself may not come amiss at this time with those who grow strawberries. I procured a half-hogshead, filled it with rain-water, and put into it one-quarter pound ammonia, and one-quarter pound common nitre. When the strawberry plants were blossoming out, I gave them a sprinkling of the solution at evening twice a week until the fruit was nearly full size. The result was double the amount of fruit on those plants where the liquid was applied to, than was obtained from those right alongside where none of the liquid was applied. Let all give it a trial.—Selected.



## A Cheerful Wife.

What a blessing to a household is a merry, cheerful woman—one whose spirits are not affected by wet days or little disappointments—one whose milk of human kindness does not grow sour in the sunshine of prosperity! Such a woman, in the darkest hours, brightens the house like a piece of sunshiny weather. The magnetism of her smiles and the electrical brightness of her looks and movements infect everyone. The children go to school with the sense of something great going to be achieved; the husband goes into the world in a conqueror's spirit. No matter how people annoy and worry him through the day, far off her presence shines, and he whispers to himself: "At home I shall find rest." So day by day she literally renews her strength and energy. And if you know a man with a beaming face, a kind heart and a prosperous business, in nine cases out of ten you will find he has a wife of this kind.

## MARRIED.

**HUNT-WHITE.**—At the residence of Mrs. J. H. English, in South Boston, by the Rev. G. E. Holister, Mr. Edson H. Hunt to Miss Eva White, both of Boston. The parties above are members of South Boston Grange. The former is a graduate of the Agricultural College—the latter has taught the school in South Boston Grange. Their wedding tour consisted of a trip to the farm, where they arrived on the same day, and entered upon the duties of conducting a farm. May happiness and success attend them through a long life.

## THE REAPER, DEATH.

**HALL.**—Died, at his residence in Berlin township, Ottawa Co., Feb. 19th, Bro. Stephen D. Hall, a charter member of Ottawa Grange, No. 30, at the advanced age of eighty years. [This notice and the accompanying resolutions of condolence and sympathy adopted by the Grange—if received—got mislaid, or overlooked in some way, as we know nothing of it, except from a letter of inquiry just received, which gives the fact and date of death.]—Ed.

**WHITLOCK.**—Died, at her home in Greenbush, Clinton Co., Mich., April 24th, 1880, Ida L. Whitlock, in the 24th year of her age. She was a member of Keystone Grange, No. 226, and although she was a resident of the town scarcely two years, she leaves a large circle of friends to mourn her loss. Resolved, That we, as a Grange, earnestly sympathize with the bereaved family. Resolved, That our charter and altar be draped in mourning for sixty days. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be put upon the Grange record, a copy be presented to the husband of the deceased and a copy be sent to the County papers, and GRANGE VISITOR for publication. Mrs. O. S. TOWN, Mrs. S. D. KEYS, Mrs. R. C. VOORHEES.

**TANNER.**—Died, at his residence in the township of Gaines, Kent Co., March 31st, 1880. **WIERZAS.** Death has entered our field for the second time since the organization of our Grange, and removed from our midst our worthy and respected brother, WARREN D. TANNER, therefore, Resolved, That while we humbly bow in submission, we faintly would express in words our sympathy for the members of a bereaved family, at the same time fully realizing the inability of our words to heal the wound inflicted by their loss. We will, nevertheless, offer our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the family of our deceased brother. Resolved, That, as we cannot reach the dead, and can the living, we will, therefore, in the future, be more faithful in the discharge of our duty to the living. Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for sixty days, and the members of this Grange wear the badge of mourning the same length of time. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the GRANGE VISITOR, with the request that they be published therein.

W. D. LUDINGTON,  
Committee.

Elena Grange, No. 350, Fisher, April 18th, '80.

**CORRIGAN.**—WHEREAS, Lake Grange, No. 84, has been called upon to perform the last sad duty incumbent upon us, in attending the funeral obsequies of our late worthy Brother, JOAN CORRIGAN, who died April 10, 1880; therefore, Resolved, That, in the death of Bro. Corrigan, Lake Grange has lost a staunch member and true Brother, who in life proved himself a true friend, a good neighbor and an affectionate husband and father. Resolved, That the condolence and sympathies of this Grange are hereby tendered to the widow and family of our late Brother, with the assurance of such material aid and advice as may be necessary to prove our regard and the fraternal character of our Order.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be presented to the family of our late Brother, and one also to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication. WILLIAM A. BROWN, EMMA E. LOCKEY, MARY ROBINS, Committee.

Royalton, May, 1880.

**WILLIAMS.**—WHEREAS, In accordance with divine law, brother RICHARD WILLIAMS has passed from this life; therefore, Resolved, That in the death of our worthy brother, his family have been called to part with a kind and tender husband and father, the church a firm and devoted pillar, the Grange a consistent and active member, and the community a respected and honored citizen.

Resolved, That we mingle our sorrow and tears with those of the bereaved family, and extend unto them that sympathy which flows from hearts which feel for others' woes.

Resolved, That while we, as Patrons, deplore the separation from our worthy brother, we shall ever cherish his memory, and miss his genial smile and quiet presence.

Resolved, That in token of respect for the departed, we drap in mourning our hall and the

charter of the Order for the period of thirty days. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased, the same to be placed upon the records of the Grange, also that a copy be sent to the GRANGE VISITOR for publication. A. J. GIBBS, RILEY TAFT, J. A. WHITE, Committee.

Orange Grange, No. 168.

PLEASE bear in mind, I pay special attention to the filling of all orders for Dry Goods, Garden Seeds, Scales, Watches, Jewelry, Machinery, etc., etc., and at Wholesale Rates when ordered in bulk, that is, by the barrel, half-case, case, bolt, or dozen; and in smaller quantities, at the best rates attainable, cash to accompany the order. THOS. MASON, 159 So. Water St., Chicago.

## The H. L. C. Leather Dressing.

MIDDLEBUSH, N. J., May 23d, '79. The can of L. D. came safely to hand, and we have given it a thorough test here on my farm. It is certainly all that you claim for it.

I remain, yours fraternally, MORTIMER WHITEHEAD, PLAINVIEW, Wabash Co. Minn., July 16th, 1879.

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

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## NUMBER 27, for 1880.

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March 15, 1880.

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