



Middlemen.

I am no Granger, though not unfavorable to the Order. I bid God speed to any society that will do good, and if the Patrons of Husbandry do not too far lose sight of its original principle, I believe it will do good. Still, I do not propose to join them, as I believe the good they will do could be accomplished in a better way. But this is not what I intend to write about. Middlemen is my theme—the hunted, despised, forsaken middlemen. The Grangers say they want to make them producers, instead of useless consumers. The object seems to be to drive them on to the farm, make them plow, sow, reap and mow, and add to the already overflowing granaries of the West. Would this really benefit the farmer? Is it to his interest to increase the number of producers? Would it not be better to double the number of consumers? This is the very difficulty, itself, in the West. There are too many producers, and not enough consumers. This is what makes low prices and hard times. Grain must be shipped across the continent and to Europe, at an enormous expense, to obtain buyers. If an army of middlemen, with plenty of money, were let loose in each of the great grain producing States to-day, we should see prices run up rapidly, and better times would come at once. All the traders of the country are middlemen, strictly, and their number is legion. They must live, and to their activity and energy the farmer is largely indebted for what little stir there is in the financial world. Banish all these consumers, or worse yet, turn them to producers of farm products, and the farmer would very soon pray to be delivered "from himself."

This question is regarded by Grangers only on one side. They can see nothing but the "commission ye middlemen gets," and the benefits, the advantages, are totally disregarded. Give the devil his due. If you want to fight, "take a man of your own size." Go for monopolies, and corruption in high places, and ignorance and superstition in low places, and all the various forms of evil that exist in the land. Don't begrudge the merchant his little "five per cent.," and give the dram-seller "two hundred," besides your character and hopes of salvation. We do not intimate that Grangers are favorable to the liquor interest, but we know some members to whom this advice will apply, and they are least in their denunciations of middlemen. I said the Order could be the means of accomplishing good, but it must return to its "first love"—the moral, educational, and social elevation of its members—if it would save itself. The saving and getting of money seems to be the principal objects, and all the noble sentiments expressed in the original "Declaration of Principles," which I can heartily endorse, are rarely referred to, much less labored for.—Cor. Ohio Farmer.

The Press and Our Order. Has it ever occurred to the members of our Order that the great lever in the Grange movement has been the Press? Our enemies realize this, and are seeking in every way to undermine and destroy this great influence. They see that without the agency of the press we are at their mercy. They realize its importance, and bring it to bear against us with all the power of which they are capable. The noble army of papers that have been battling for the farmer have had no royal road upon which to travel. Attacked on all sides by the old established journals of the land, they had to be very vigilant lest some advantages might be taken and the cause suffer unjustly. There are about twenty papers in the United States that are avowed advocates of the Order; these have worked manfully, and they are gratified that their efforts have not been in vain. They have met and won many opponents; have encouraged weak Patrons; furnished them potent arguments with which to combat ignorance, and have made the farming interest a power in the land, instead of, as before, a prey to middlemen. Hereafter the farmers as a class have had no champions, and they have permitted themselves to be despised and snubbed on every hand; now they are commencing to feel their importance as a class, and it is mainly due to the influence of that portion of the Press that has advocated their cause. Will they appreciate this, and see to it that their organs are sustained? Every Patron and, indeed, farmer should subscribe to a paper of this nature. Farm-

ing must be upheld and vindicated through the Press, and the farmer must keep posted through papers devoted to his interests. The little money it takes to subscribe to a good paper will not be missed by the farmer, while it will, when a sufficient number subscribe, sustain the paper.—Weekly Grange.

National Grange Principles.

The following declaration of purposes was enunciated at the late meeting of the National Grange, which principles faithfully adhered to, they claim, will insure their mental, moral, social and material advancement.

We shall endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to accomplish the following objects:

- 1. To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves.
2. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits.
3. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation.
4. To maintain inviolate our laws, and to emulate each other in labor to hasten the good time coming.
5. To reduce our expenses, both individual and co-operative.
6. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our farms self-sustaining.
7. To diversify our crops, and crop no more than we can cultivate.
8. To increase the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel, and more on hoof and in fleece.
9. To systematize our work and calculate intelligently on probabilities.
10. To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy.
11. We propose meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, and in acting together for our mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may require.
12. We shall avoid litigation as much as possible by arbitration in the Grange.
13. We shall constantly strive to secure entire harmony, good will, vital brotherhood among ourselves and to make our order perpetual.
14. We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, all selfish ambition.

To Cure Split Hoofs.

I had a horse that had both hoofs split from top to bottom. He could not walk without his feet spreading apart. I kept him for three months on straw one foot deep in the stable, but all did no good. At last I went to the blacksmith shop and had heavy shoes made which spread wide at the heels. To these heavy shoes there was welded, at the outside of each heel, a piece made of shoe nail iron. These pieces were made to fit well around the foot, about an inch below the hair. I let the piece come together within half an inch each and turned up about three-fourths of an inch. In the turn-up part a hole was made to receive a bolt an inch long with a square head and screw and nut on the other end. On nailing the shoes on and putting the bolt in and screwing on the nut the foot was brought together. In this way I was enabled to work him every day if I wished. Previous to this my horse had not walked one mile in three months. Next day after I had the shoes put on I drove him in a carriage twenty miles, and I have used him right along.—Cor. Cincinnati Gazette.

About Fattening Cattle.

The price of cattle fattened for market depends on the symmetry of the animal, as well as the "fat" style, as shippers term it. Good blood is important, but not absolutely necessary, to make what is termed a good seller. In order to fatten a steer to bring the highest market price, he must be kept in a growing condition from a calf, and in no case allowed to go hungry. It is the starving the first and second winters which wilit and shrivels up a steer, that causes him to be sold at a reduced price. No amount of feeding will make him a first-class seller, no difference what his color or blood. An animal well fed, of any blood, from a calf until the spring he is three years old, will be smooth, with bones well covered and will sell at a profit; while a half-starved animal becomes crooked in the back, bones projecting, and shriveled up, takes the best part of summer to get in condition to live, and will not be in condition for market until he is four years old, and then will bring a price which is unsatisfactory to the producers and to every one that handles him. This is no theory, but a fact deduced from close observation, as I have tested the plan for several years. It will and does pay to feed corn to calves and to yearlings. They start out to grass in the spring strong and vigorous. You are then able to

market your cattle the spring they are three years old, weighing 1,400 pounds, which is heavy enough to bring the first price.

The best steer I sold in 1872 was a common native. He had all he could eat from a calf, and was never hungry. He was a handsome animal, and was worth more per pound than any I shipped in 1872.—Drovers' Journal.

Land for sweet potatoes should be plowed deep in the fall after the first frost, and again in early spring; and plowed as often as vegetation puts up until time to put out the potatoes, then make up the ridges with a plow and run a subsoiler as deep as possible in the middles and rebed. Put the potatoes out 18 to 24 inches apart, having a large ridge. When they need work hoe out and bar off a little of the base of the ridge so as to cover up the grass; hoe out or off of the ridge until it dies. In about a week throw back the ridge and up as much as possible to the roots of the vines; and in another week plough again with a large turning plow, throwing up the dirt higher on the outside of the ridge than in the middle, this will enable the ridge to hold the rain that falls on it, this is all the cultivation I ever give mine and I never fail to make a good crop if I get them planted early. I always bed out a large quantity of potatoes, so as to be able to put them out in the spring rains, it is not safe to trust to rains late in the season.—Grange Reporter.

The Mission of the Grange.

This can be told in a few words. It is to elevate the farmer mentally, socially, morally and financially. That explains it all. As a sequence of all this, a better and more efficient system of agriculture will follow.

The Grange proposes to raise the standard of education for the benefit of farmers' sons and their daughters; to build up schools and Colleges; to establish libraries; to encourage circulation of useful papers; in a word, to diffuse intelligence among the industrial classes.

What nobler object than this? Who is ready to condemn it? It should be encouraged by all good citizens. How can we dignify labor and advance the cause of agriculture without intelligence? When the tillers of the soil, heretofore, more or less oblivious to the necessity of education, step forward, as they are now doing in the Grange, and concede the importance of more fully enlightening the agricultural mind, they should be encouraged and not ridiculed as many have done.

Gradually other classes are beginning to find out that the Grange was not organized to open fire upon them. Every true Patron will at once concede the necessity of having other classes, and he will strive, as far as he can, to work in harmony with them.

Rye for Hots in Horses.

A prominent citizen and granger stated to me that some years ago he had a fine horse in bad health, and was advised to give him rye as a remedy for hots, or worms—taking the bundle and cutting fine from the head end, so as to use only the heads and the small end of the straw among the heads, mixing meal or bran with the fine-cut heads and straw, and then starving the horse a few hours, so that he would eat a good meal of it. My friend followed the prescription, and he states that he never saw so many worms come from a horse before under any treatment. His horse recovered his health and did good service for many years. My friend keeps up the use of the rye among his horses, with good effect. His horses are all fat.—Cor. Weekly Grange.

The Poultry Interest.

According to a correspondent of the Railroad Register, there were shipped at the railhead station in Quakertown, Pa., from the 17th to the 24th of March, ult., a period of one week, the commission men sent from the same place four thousand two hundred and fifty-two dozen eggs (4,252 dozen), and they inform me that in a month from this time their shipments will be nearly double that amount. When we consider that this is merely the surplus of one neighborhood; after each family had used freely for its own use, the aggregate product seems almost incredible. This leads me to believe that the introduction of improved breeds of poultry is of more advantage to our farmers than that of any other stock.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Valuable Recipes. CLEANING PICTURE FRAMES.—Black walnut frames will become dull and rusty looking. They may be renewed by first dusting thoroughly with a stiff brush to remove dust and then applying pure linseed oil, with a proper brush; in the absence of a brush, a piece of new bleached muslin will answer the purpose. SPANISH PICKLE.—Take 1 1/2 dozen large cucumbers—if fresh, put them in

brine 4 or 5 days—if salt, soak in water 24 hours; 2 heads of cabbage chopped fine; let the cabbage lie in salt 8 hours; 2 or 3 dozen seed onions; 8 green pepper pods, soaked in salt water. Squeeze all the above ingredients as dry as possible with the hands. Then place a layer of the articles in a kettle, alternately with a layer of seasoning composed of 2 ounces white mustard seed, 1 ounce celery seed, 1 25 cent box of Coleman's mustard, 1 ounce turmeric, and 2 pounds of white sugar, the whole mixed with a moderate quantity of good strong vinegar. Boil half an hour, or until it thickens, and then bottle tight. To DRY PUMPKIN.—Take the ripe pumpkins, pare, cut into small pieces, stew soft, mash and strain through a colander, as if for making pies. Spread this pulp on plates, in layers not quite an inch thick; dry it in the stove oven, which should be kept at so low a temperature as not to scorch it. In about a day, it will become dry and crisp. The sheets thus made can be stored in a dry place, and they are always ready for use for pies or sauces. The quick drying after cooking prevents any portion from slightly souring, as is nearly always the case when the uncooked pieces are dried; the flavor is much better preserved, and the after cooking is saved. To use: Soak pieces over night in a little milk, and they will return to a nice pulp as delicious as the fresh pumpkin. PORK CUTLETS.—Fry to a nice brown; beat three eggs with three spoonfuls of flour, dip each slice in the batter, and fry again, until the batter is cooked. This is very nice. SALT PORK STEW.—Slice and fry the pork without freshening; put the pork, well drained, into a kettle of boiling water; add six potatoes sliced, and boil twenty minutes. Season to taste, and serve hot.

GOOD PASTE.—Paste that will keep unchanged in warm weather may be made in the following manner: Put a teaspoonful of powdered alum in two quarts of water, and let it boil. Mix a pint of flour smoothly into a pint of cold water, and stir it into the boiling alum water, continuing the boiling and stirring until the flour is cooked and the whole is clear, like starch. Add to this about half a teaspoonful of essential oil of cloves or cinnamon, strain through a wire gauze or perforated tin strainer, and bottle in wide mouthed jars, which should be corked to keep out dust.

STRET Pudding.—One cup sugar, half-cup molasses, one and one-half cups sweet milk, three cups flour, two spoonfuls baking powder, one cup raisins, one cup currants; butter the pan and steam two and one-half hours.

BAKER'S BUNS.—Mix 1 1/2 pounds of sugar with 2 lbs of flour, make a hole in the center of the flour, and pour in half a pint of warm milk and two table-spoonfuls of yeast, make the whole into a batter, and set the dish before the fire, covered up, until the leaven begins to ferment; add to this 1/2 lb of melted butter and milk enough to make a soft paste of all the flour, and let it rise again for half an hour; shape the dough into buns, and lay apart on a buttered tin, in rows, to rise for half an hour; bake in a quick oven. A few currants are added with the butter.

ORANGE CAKE.—One cup of sugar, one-half a cup of butter, one-half cup of cold water, three eggs (reserving the whites of two for frosting), two even cups of sifted flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, juice and pulp of one orange. Bake in three jelly tins. Make a frosting of the whites of the eggs, two-thirds of a cup of white sugar, and grated peel of one orange, spreading it on each layer.

IOWA GINGER SNAPS.—Take a coffee cup, put in three table-spoonfuls of boiling water, one teaspoonful of ginger, half a teaspoonful of soda, three table-spoonfuls of butter or lard, and fill the cup with molasses. Mix up and roll out thin. These are favorites of all who eat them.

POTATO SALAD.—A most delicious dish may be made in the following manner: Cut eight or ten good sized cold boiled potatoes in very thin slices, chop half a small onion and a good sized apple very fine, pick the leaves from a handful of green parsley, rinse and chop them. Spread a layer of the potato in a chopping tray; sprinkle liberally with salt, then half the parsley, apple and onion, then the rest of the potato, more salt, and the other half of the parsley, apple and onion. Pour over the whole a half cup of the best sweet oil or melted butter, and add two-thirds of a cup of vinegar. Mix the whole carefully so as not to break the potatoes, put in a deep dish and garnish with parsley. Suitable for lunch or tea.

To RENOVATE WALL PAPER.—Dip a woolen cloth in dry corn meal and rub the wall paper with it; this will remove the dust and smoke. Pieces of stale bread have the same effect.

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BRAINS.—To a cultivated appetite these are among the choicest parts of any animal. Brains should be soaked in water to remove all blood from them; then they may be fried in butter till well done. A nice way of preparing them is to boil them in milk for about twenty minutes, pour off the milk and pour over them vinegar. Cooked in this way they are as nice as pickled oysters, from which they can scarcely be told.

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