

DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

The Platform of the Grange.

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL GRANGE AT ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

PREAMBLE.

PROFOUNDLY impressed with the truth that the National Grange of the United States should definitely proclaim to the world its general objects, we hereby unanimously make this Declaration of Purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry:—

GENERAL OBJECTS.

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

2. We heartily endorse the motto: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

SPECIFIC OBJECTS.

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

To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation. To maintain inviolate our laws, and to emulate each other in labor to hasten the good time coming. To reduce our expenses, both individual and corporate. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our farms self-sustaining. To diversify our crops, and crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel and more on hoof and in fleece. To systematize our work and calculate intelligently on probabilities.

To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy.

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

BUSINESS RELATIONS.

4. For our business interests, we desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible. Hence, we must dispense with a surplus of middlemen, not that we are unfriendly to them, but we do not need them. Their surplus and their exactions diminish our profits.

We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interest whatever. On the contrary, all our acts and all our efforts, so far as business is concerned, are not only for the benefit of the producer and consumer, but also for all other interests that tend to bring these two parties into speedy and economical contact. Hence, we hold that transportation companies of every kind are necessary to our success, that their interests are intimately connected with our interests, and harmonious action is mutually advantageous; keeping in view the first sentence in our declaration of principles of action that "Individual happiness depends upon general prosperity."

We shall, therefore, advocate for every State the increase in every practicable way of all facilities for transporting cheaply to the seaboard, or between home producers and consumers, all the productions of our country. We adopt it as our fixed purpose to "open out the channels in nature's great arteries, that the life blood of commerce may flow freely."

We are not enemies of railroads, navigable and irrigating canals, nor of any corporation that will advance our industrial interests, nor of any laboring classes.

In our noble Order there is no communism, no agrarianism.

We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies to capital, but we oppose the tyranny of monopolies. We long to see the antagonism between capital and labor removed by common consent, and by an enlightened statesmanship worthy of the nineteenth century. We are opposed to excessive salaries, high rates of interest, and exorbitant per cent. profits in trade. They greatly increase our burdens, and do not bear a proper proportion to the profits of producers. We desire only self-protection and the protection of every true interest of our land by legitimate transactions, legitimate trade and legitimate profits.

EDUCATION.

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

THE GRANGE NOT PARTISAN.

5. We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft repeated truth, taught in our organic law, that the Grange, National, State, or Subordinate, is not a political or party organization. No Grange, if true to its obligations, can discuss political or religious questions, nor call political conventions, nor nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in its meetings.

Yet the principles we teach underlie all true politics, all true statesmanship; and, if properly carried out, will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country. For we seek the greatest good to the greatest number.

We must always bear in mind that no one, by becoming a patron of husbandry, gives up the inalienable right and duty which belongs to every American citizen, to take a proper interest in the politics of his country.

On the contrary, it is right for every member to do all in his power legitimately, to influence for good the actions of any political party to which he belongs. It is his duty to do all he can in his own party to put down bribery, corruption, and trickery; to see that none but competent, faithful, and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, are nominated for all positions of trust; and to have carried out the principle which should always characterize every Patron, that

THE OFFICE SHOULD SEEK THE MAN, AND NOT THE MAN THE OFFICE.

We acknowledge the broad principle that difference of opinion is no crime, and hold that "progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion," while "the fault lies in bitterness of controversy."

We desire a proper equality, equity and fairness; protection for the weak, restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed burdens and justly distributed power. These are American ideas, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American republic.

We cherish the belief that sectionalism is and of right should be dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future. In our agricultural brotherhood and its purposes we shall recognize no North, no South, no East, no West.

It is reserved by every Patron, as the right of a freeman, to affiliate with any party that will best carry out his principles.

OUTSIDE CO-OPERATION.

6. Ours being peculiarly a farmers' institution, we cannot admit all to our ranks.

Many are excluded by the nature of our organization, not because they are professional men, or artisans, or laborers, but because they have not a sufficient direct interest in tilling the soil, or may have some interest in conflict with our purposes. But we appeal to all good citizens for their cordial co-operation to assist in our efforts towards reform, that we may eventually remove from our midst the last vestige of tyranny and corruption.

We hail the general desire for fraternal harmony, equitable compromises, and earnest co-operation as an omen of our future success.

CONCLUSION.

It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by any means at our command.

Last, but not least, we proclaim it among our purposes to inculcate a proper appreciation of the abilities and sphere of woman as is indicated by admitting her to membership and position in our Order.

Miss Lushion to the Front Again.

DEAR SISTER POWELL:—I was surprised when I got the paper with my letter in, for I did not expect to have the hul thing in; the most I looked for was a answer to the things I ast. But I was just as tickled as could be, and think you are the cleverest lady I know. I was real disappointed not to get the answers. That maybe you'd put a little piece to the end and tell me what I wanted to know. I told my nabor what I was lookin' fer, and he sed I would hev to lern pashence, but I sed that went my nater; he said he thot it ort to be, bein I was named like I was. I ast him what he ment and he sed I ort to rede Darin. Now, I jst-new he was meain some of them stories like was in the Nu York Weekly, and as I was goin to the city, I went into a great big bookstore and ast the best lookin' feller I see if he had a book called Darin; he looked sorter puzzled, and sed he didnt know. What kind of a book was it? I said it was a story about a girl what had my name, which was Eva Lushion, and he kinder twisted up his face like as if he was goin to laf and that made me mad, and I jst waked out, so I cant make out what they ment, can you? I am awful tired, a whitewash, housecleanin. I du hate whitewash, an du wish that father would let us put on paper like our nabors, but he sez its too fired lazy—we need sumthin to du, and I ges we git it. The kweshtau was ast in the paper, what made the young folks leve the farm. I tell you I can answer that. One thing is whitewash, an another is no picters in the house nor flowers in the yard, or if we do have a few, the blamed chickens scratch an ete em up. The boys dont hev no fair sho nuther, fer hard work and no pa that is visabel is pore enkerriement. I tell you a boy nur a girl wont work jst fer vittels and close like as if they had a little spenden money of there own. If you would like, I will send you a pece about this, for I have lots about it, I ken tell you. You jst make home the pertiest place on erth, and dont be a promisin and not performin, and a lot of other things I ken tell you about, an see if they dont stay on the farm. If you want me to rite, say so.

EVA LUSHION.

HUMOROUS.

—BOOK AGENT—Is the boss of the house in? Husband (who has responded to the ring of the doorbell)—I guess so, I heard my wife say that she was in.

B. A.—Oh! the boss of the house is a lady.

H.—Yes, our servant girl; I guess you will find her in the basement kitchen. Go down the flight of stairs to the left. Good morning.

THE imagination of a three-year-old boy is often a stupendous thing. One can't help wondering how much a child of that age believes of his own big stories. This one for example:—"I went out in de front yard dis morning," said Benny, "and I saw a 'nawful big horse up in a tree, and I took a gun and I shotted it, and I took it in de house and my mamma picked de fadders off it and cooked it for breksit!"

—LAST night a little Massachusetts avenue boy was saying his prayers at his mother's knee, and just before reaching the end he stopped.

"Go on, Freddie," said his mother; "you haven't finished yet."

"Bless papa and mamma," he continued; "and now, good-bye, God; Lent is over and I guess you won't hear from us again till this time next year, amef."

—SMITH—I heard Brown speaking very highly of your neighbor Black yesterday.

Jones—Brown is a fulsome flatterer.

S.—He also said that he thought you were one of the most estimable of men, a kind husband and father and a loyal friend.

J.—Eh—er—Brown said so—h'm, I thought you meant white. Brown is an excellent fellow, honest and reliable.

—BOBBY was very much impressed by the remark of the minister at church that man was made of dust.

"Ma," he said after a thoughtful silence, "was I made of dust, too?"

"Yes," she replied.

"Well, how is it, then, that my birthday comes in January? There ain't no dust in January."

FIRST BOY—Ma says I mustn't play with you because your father is nothing but a shoemaker.

SECOND BOY—So's your father a shoemaker.

F. B.—Ma says he's a manufacturer. He makes a thousand pairs of shoes to your father's one pair.

S. B.—Then he must be a thousand times worse than my father. I guess I won't play with you any more.

"Look here, daughter," said Mrs. Parvenu to her eldest, "I'm not going to have you degrading my parlor with your athletic notions any longer, and I shall attend to it myself."

"Taint nioux," replied the daughter, in elegant seminary French.

"Tain you, en?" snapped the mother. "Well, I'd like to know who the mischief it is, then."

"You are fishing with persistence," said a gentleman to an urchin who had thrashed a stream the whole afternoon without apparent reward.

"Oh, no, sir; on'y jst angleworms," replied the youth pleasantly.

"I mean you have a good deal of perseverance," explained the other.

"No, them's suckers; guess ye hain't never lived in these parts, have ye?" The boy was not a little disgusted by the stranger's ignorance.

—A LADY from one of the up-country counties is in Washington for the first time, and the other evening she attended a reception where there was dancing. During the evening she watched a handsome woman in the waltz.

"Who is that lady?" she inquired of her chaperon.

"It is the wife of one of the ministers here," her friend explained.

"You don't say so?" was the surprised response. "Well, well; it's a mighty queer place for a preacher's wife, now, ain't it?"

Beware of Evil-Doers.

IN the last number of the Journal we mentioned that a Texan ranchman was in the neighborhood of Burlington purchasing three car loads of young bulls with which to stock his ranch. No money was paid on the bulls, and they are still in the hands of those who bred them; but as for the Texan, who had a surplus of one hundred thousand dollars which he scarcely knew how to invest—where is he? We hope that none of our farmers were taken in when the attempt was made to negotiate that fourteen hundred dollar check on the bank at Hamilton.

Stockmen, before you spend a week or two of your valuable time in driving wealthy Texans around the country, look well into their credentials, and when you sell bulls to a stranger, politely ask for a deposit when you close the bargain. How is it that when demons in the garb of men have laid some fiendish scheme of roguery, they attempt to spring it on hard-working, honest, UNSUSPECTING farmers?—*Live Stock Journal.*

Josiah Allen's Wife on the License Question.

"How can we help workin' sister Minkley? How can we hold our hands up, and rest on our feather beds? If a deadly serpent had broken loose from some circus, and was a wreathin' and twistin' his way through Jonesville, swallerin' down a man or a woman every few days, would men stand with their hands in their pockets, or leavin' up ag'inst barn doors a-whittlin', arguin' feebly from year to year, whether it was best to try to catch the serpent and cut its head off, or whether it was best, after all, to let him go free? After they had seen some of their best friends swallered down by it, wouldn't they make an effort to capture it? Wouldn't they chase it into any hole they could get it into? Wouldn't they turn the first key on it if they could get hold of? And if it broke loose from that, wouldn't they try another key, and another, till they got one that would hold him?"

"Do you suppose they would rent out that serpent at so much a year to crunch and swaller

folks accordin' to law? And would it be any easier for the folks that was crunched and swallered, and for the survivin' friends of the same if they was killed by act of congress? What would such a law be thought of, Sister Minkley? And that is nothin' to the laws as they be. For what is one middlin'-sized serpent in a circus, that couldn't eat mor'n one man a week with any relish, to this intemperance, that swallers down a hundred thousand every year, and is as big as the Great Midgard serpent I have heard Thomas J. read about, whose folds encompassed the earth."

"Sister Minkley sithed so loud that it sounded some like a groan, and I kep' on in a dreddful eloquent way:—

"We have got to take these things to-home, Sister Minkley, in order to realize 'em. Yours and mine are as far apart as the poles when we are talkin' about such things. As a general rule, we can bear other folks' trials and sufferin' with resignation. When it is your brother and husband that is goin' the downward road, we can endure it with considerable calmness; but when it is a part of my own heart, my Willie or my Charlie that is goin' down to ruin, we feel as if men and angels must help rescue him. It was this that sent-forth the wonderful Women's Crusade, that made tender, timid women into heroes willin' to oppose their weakness to banded strength. It was this that made victory possible to them. What was the crusade to the Holy Land that I have heard Thomas J. read about to this? That was to protect the sepulchre where the body of our Lord once laid, but this was to defend the living Christ, the God in man."—Copyright.—By per. of "Samantha," Josiah Allen's Wife.

We publish in this issue the declaration of principles of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

We believe it would be for the interests of the Order if every Patron read more frequently the Declaration of Principles and the beautiful lessons in our ritual. Are we not pledged to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves? Are we working to this end? This is a question we should each ask ourselves, and we can not do so too often. Are we not bound to foster mutual understanding and co-operation? Are we following out this principle to its fullest extent? Are we even trying to do so? Is every good Patron trying to reduce our corporate expenditure? If so, it is well; if not, are we living, as Patrons, up to these principles? Are we working together, buying together, selling together, making the most of our resources, and thus assisting one another? Are we, as Patrons, earnestly trying to suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, all selfish ambitions? Are we constantly striving to secure entire harmony, good will, vital brotherhood among ourselves and to make our Order perpetual? Are we trying to bring producer and consumer, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible? Or are we encouraging still middle men, giving the cold shoulder to the manufacturer who comes and says, Gentlemen, I want to deal with you direct? These are all questions that will be best answered by each Patron's own conscience.

In our political relations we declare we will seek the greatest good to the greatest number, and yet how often do we cast our votes for monopoly makers? for men whose interests are such that they cannot work for the greatest good, and do not do so? Do we all lend our influence to put down bribery and corruption and trickery, supporting only faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests? There never was a time in the history of our country when such action was more required than it is to-day.

To the Editor of the Co-Operator and Patron:—

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—Section 5 of Art. III, Constitution of Provincial Granges, provides that one-half of all moneys received for capita-tion tax shall be promptly forwarded to Dominion Grange. During the past two years, the Ontario Provincial Grange has retained over six hundred dollars beyond its share, and has been drawing interest on money, while Dominion Grange has had no funds to bear expense of a meeting. Is it then to be wondered at that "amalgamation" with that body is strongly objected to by

A MEMBER OF DOM. GRANGE.

Referring to the above communication, we may say that our worthy Brother is quite mistaken so far as to the Ontario Provincial Grange lending money on interest instead of paying its arrears to the Dominion Grange. The only item that we know of in the receipts of the Ontario Provincial Grange which could be supposed to be interest, is eighty cents of a dividend on one share in the stock of the Wholesale Supply Company, and the Provincial Grange received a transfer of this share from a defunct Division Grange, who transferred it in part payment of arrears to the Ontario Provincial Grange, as they had not sufficient money to meet their arrears without this share of stock mentioned.

As to the amalgamation of the Provincial Grange, we may say, first, that the dues payable